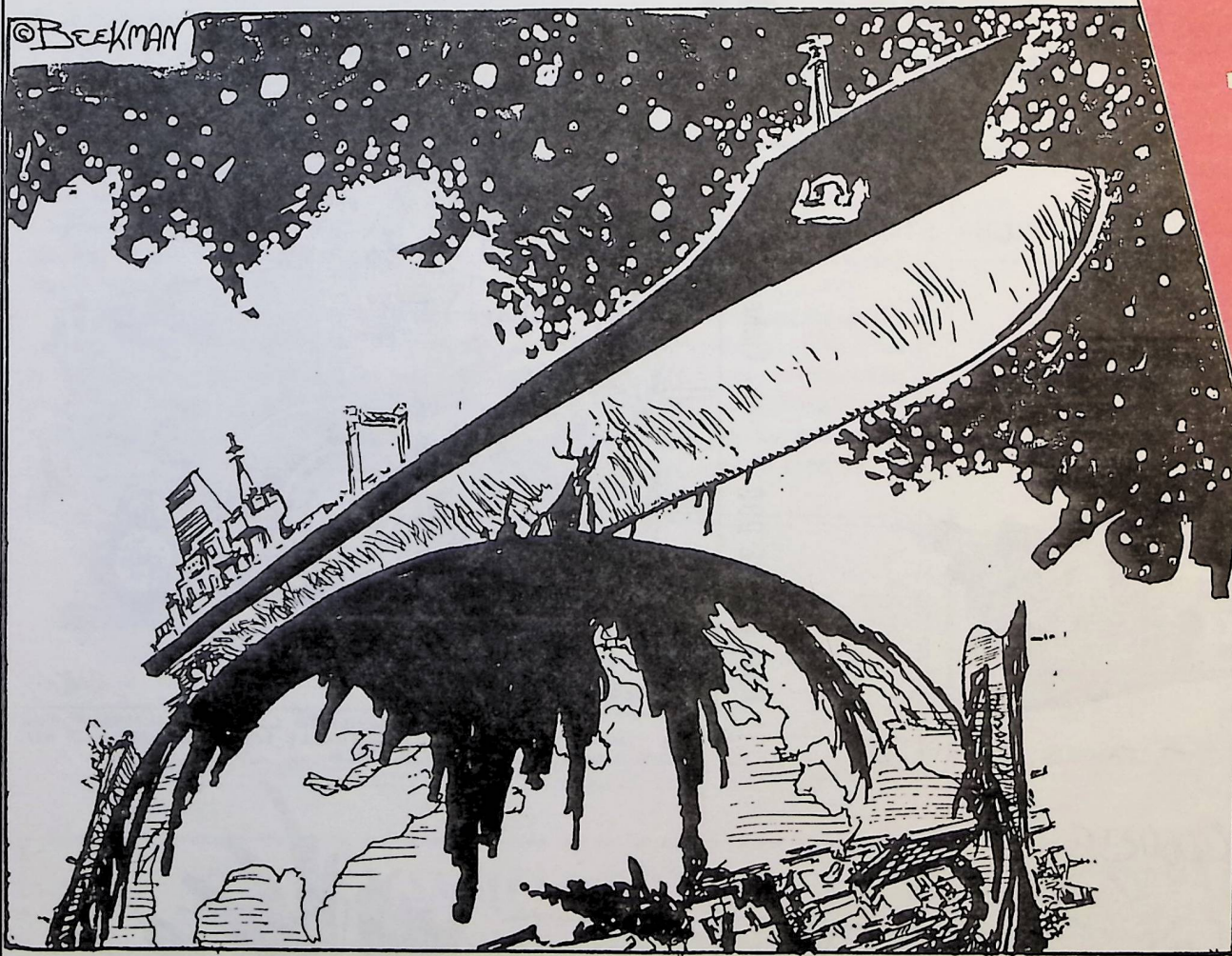


EPISODE #81
February 11, 1993

The Valley 66 COMIC

N E W S



VALDEZ-JA VU

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:

IRAQ AND RUIN
BEYOND POLITIX
MARCHING TO A DIFFERENT DRUMMER
NOW, IF I CAN JUST FIGURE OUT...
SIGNE ON SCHOOLS
MISC. & MATCH

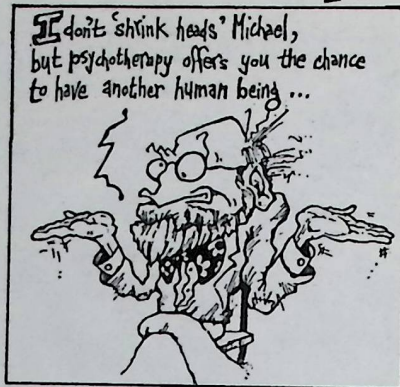
INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
IZZY GESELL'S HUMOR ME,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
EARTHWEEK,
LOCAL HEROES



LOCAL HEROES

Star Shrinker © P. Rowdy



...listen to you with total involvement for one hour a week.



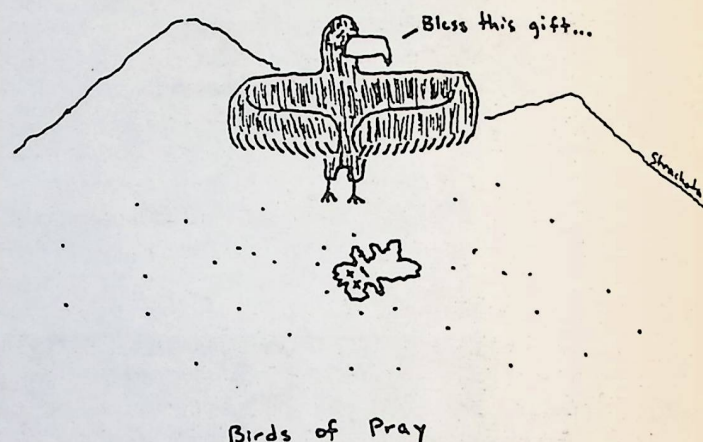
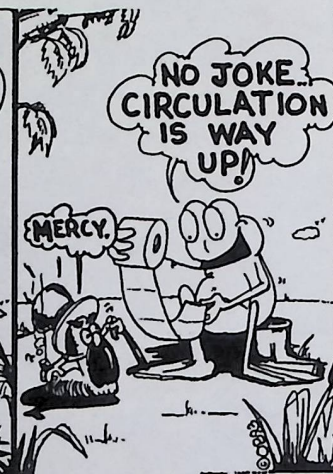
Every night, 60,000 fans grove at MY concerts! They are totally and majorly attuned to ME.



by Dr. Rowdy illustrations: K. SEIDEL.

-but there's a difference between your fans and a therapist.

RIGHT! THEY PAY ME!



Birds of Prey

PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL LIVES HERE



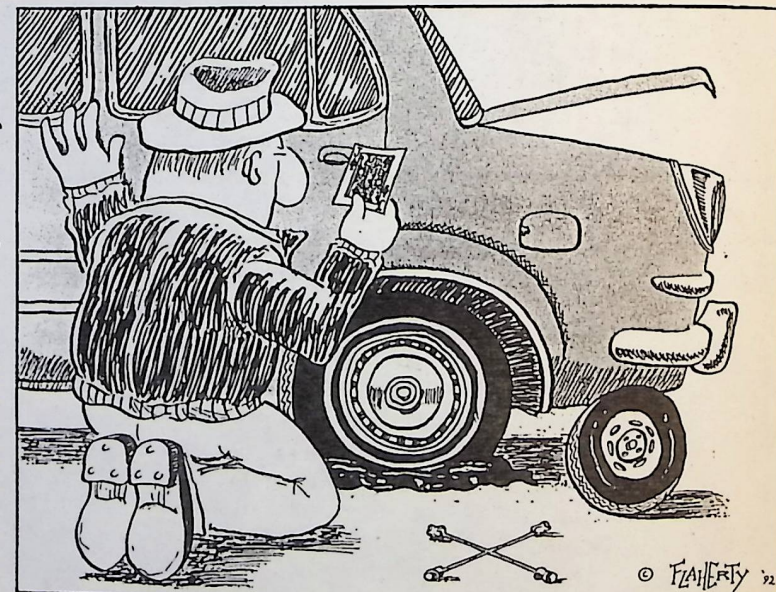
4 MORE YEARS OF SYMBOLISM OVER SUBSTANCE

THERE'S A SHADOW OVER THE LAND -

THE RIGHT SIDE

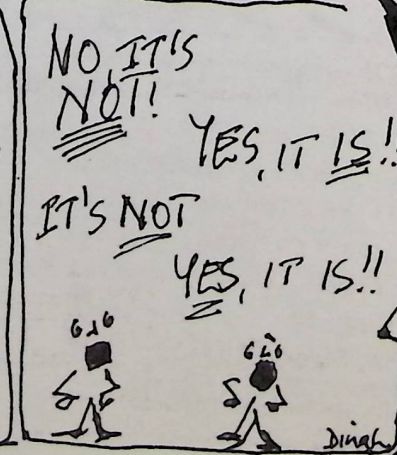
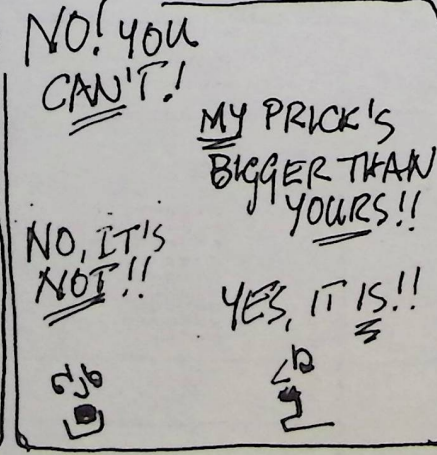
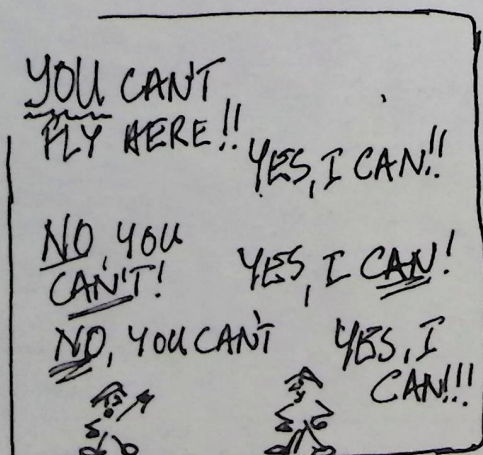
F. JAMES CORWIN '93

by Flaherty

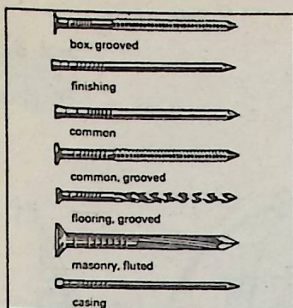


IT TOOK HAROLD A WHILE TO CONVINCE HIMSELF THAT THE TINY SPARE TIRE WOULD ACTUALLY WORK, BUT HE HAD NO HOPE WHATSOEVER FOR THE JACK.

US-IRAQI INTERCOURSE



by Mike Chisman



Regular readers of this column know nothing fascinates me more than unusual projectiles. So imagine my delight when a recent story about basketball in *The Daily Hampshire Gazette* described oldtime basketball fans as “wont to shower players with coins or heated nails.”

Now, my view of oldtime basketball has always been: they dribble the ball three times, they pass it for five minutes, they take a two-handed set shot, then the other guys try it. The final score is 16-11.

But this hot nails thing puts a whole new light

on it. Maybe they passed the ball so much because every time they tried to drive down the lane, some jerk from out of town chucked a few glowing twenty-penny spikes at their feet. *That'd* screw up your dribbling.

Or say every time the ball changes hands, the opposing fans fling handfuls of finishing nails as you inbound the ball. Hot finishing nails. I think by the third quarter, I'd be wondering why I didn't try out for wrestling.

But where'd they come up with this? Okay, coins I can understand. Hockey fans, when they're allowed out of the wards, still throw coins onto the playing area. I mean, coins are something most people have in their pockets; they're accessible. But *nails*?? And how did they keep them hot? Was it like, "OK, honey, let's not be late...Lessee...I got the tickets, the seat cushions, my wallet...oops, almost forgot the brazier and carpet tacks...."

I knew I'd never sleep until I got some of these questions answered. So I called Wayne Patterson, Head Librarian at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield (Birthplace of Hoops), Mass. Boy, did he open my eyes! Turns out in the early days as many as half of all basketball games were played with the players protected by chicken wire. He explained that didn't mean the players *wore* chicken wire, which would have left disgusting marks on their skin. Instead, the court was surrounded by a humongoid *cage* to keep the fans and players from maiming each other in the name of sport.

Furthermore — listen to this! — the cage wasn't just to put a damper on the coin-and-nail-tossers, either. In those days, there was no such thing as *out of bounds*. If the ball went twelve rows up in the seats, whichever team got the ball first, *got the ball*. Imagine Charles Barkley and Patrick Ewing scrambling for a loose ball twelve rows up. I'd like to see *that* on ESPN. Then fans would go, "OK, honey, let's not be late....got the tickets, my wallet, hospital addresses..."

Personally, I think the NBA is missing the boat by not fully exploiting the sport's history. Sure, they put on special exhibitions of slam-dunks and three-point shots. But those are *modern* inventions. It used to be *illegal* to dunk. I think they could raise an enormous chunk of ad revenue with exhibition games where each fan is provided with a cupful of hot nails, and there's no out of bounds. Kind of a combination American Gladiators and Rescue 911. Maybe they could even have Michael Jackson sing at halftime. And for a special fee, fans could throw hot nails at *him*.

The Valley Comic News

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Thanx to Alex Tiersky

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MORE SOCIAL SUGGESTIONS FROM VIDEO TO GO: ST. VALENTINE'S DAY ALTERNATIVES
GATHER APPROPRIATE COMPANY, MOVIES, and CONSUME CHOCOLATE (LOTS OF IT)



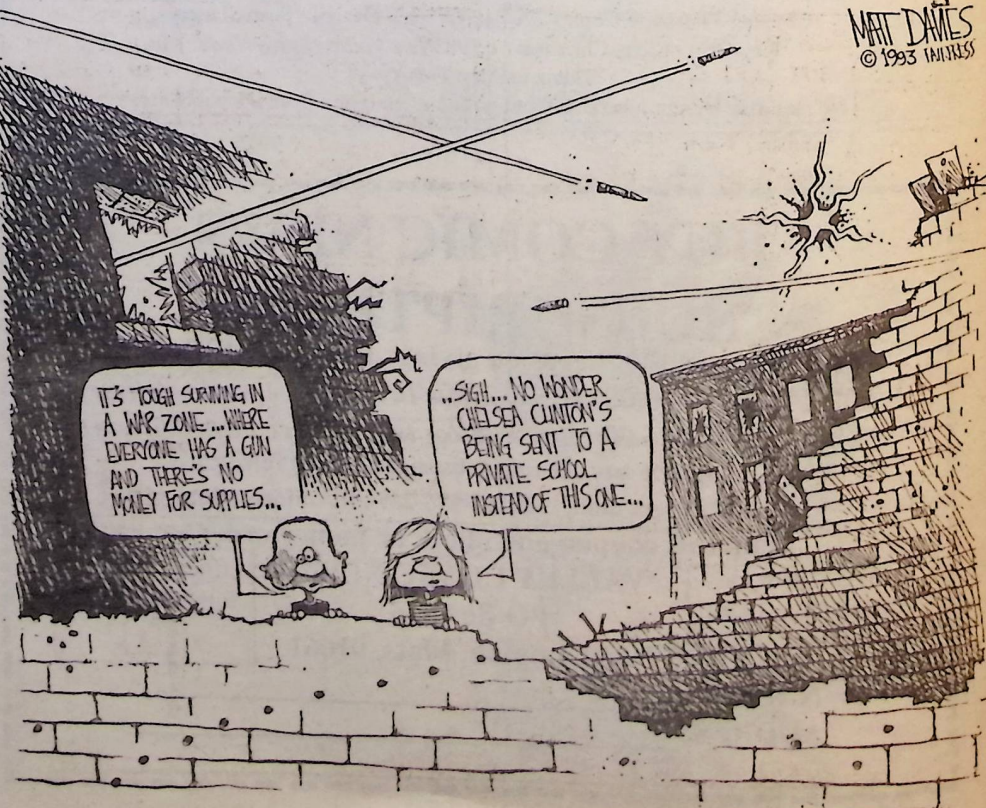
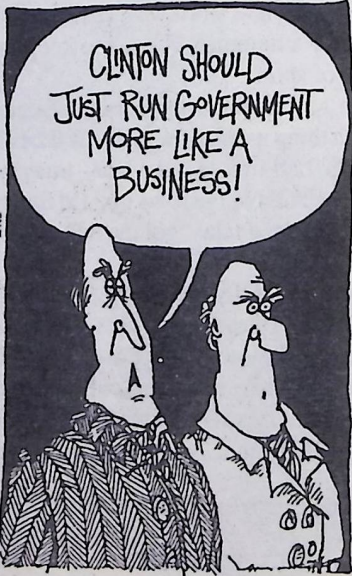
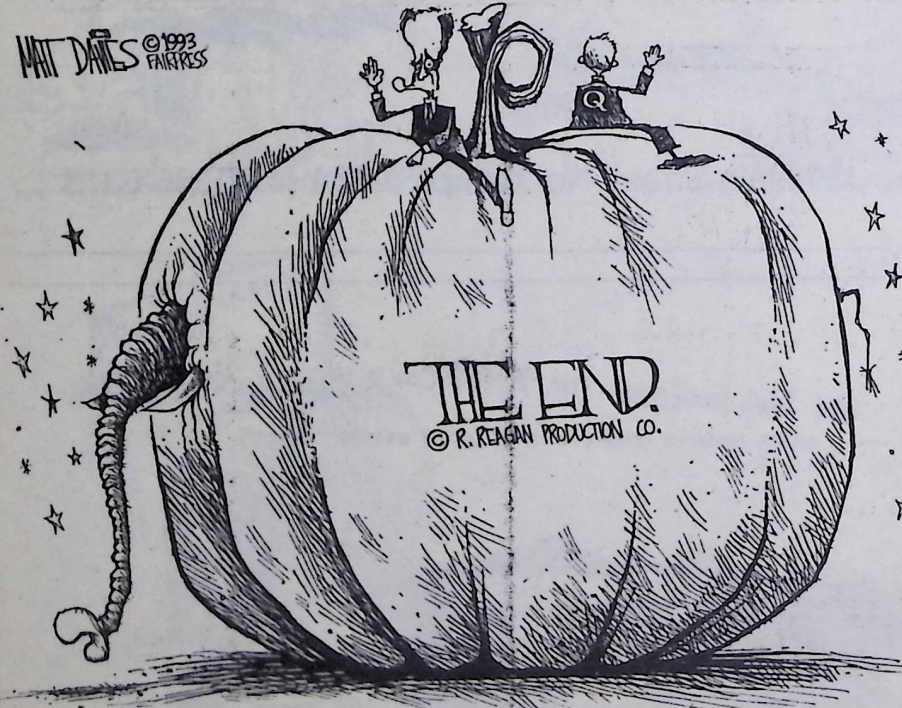
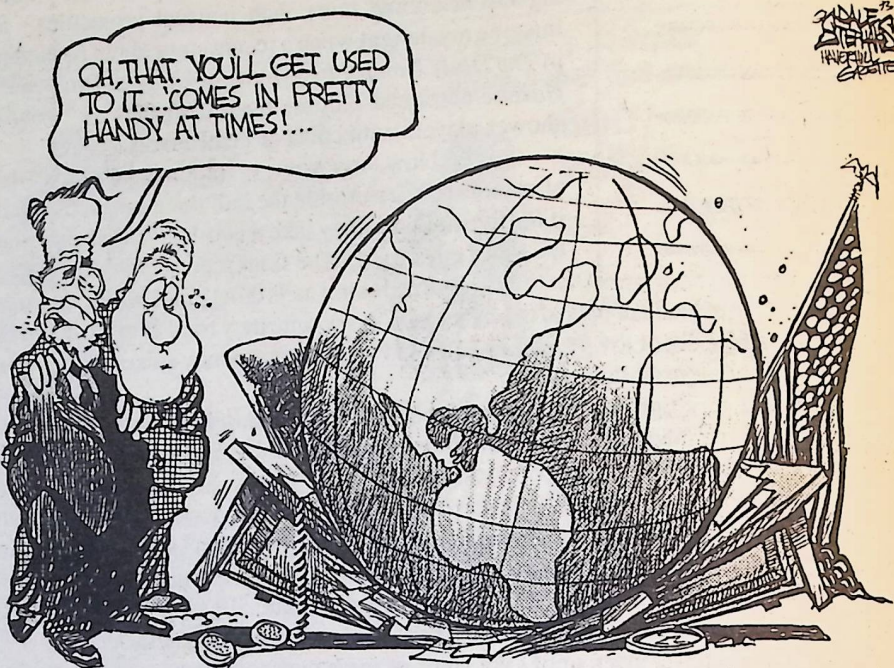
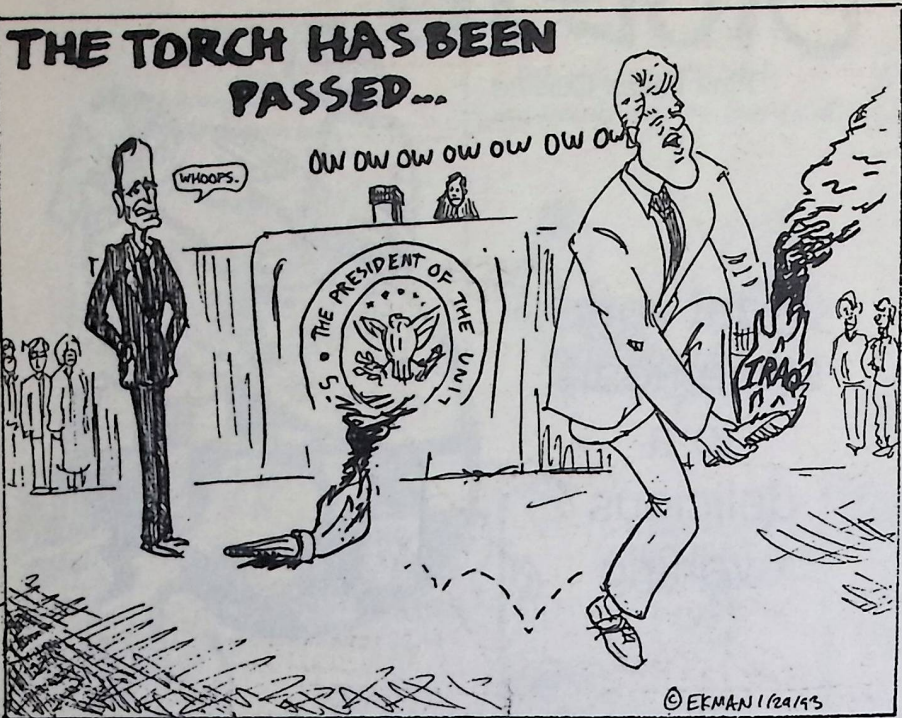
ROMANTIC

DESERT HEARTS
HOLIDAY
ROOM WITH A VIEW
BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S
WINGS OF DESIRE
CHOOSE ME
ENTRE NOUS
GREGORY'S GIRL
WHEN HARRY MET SALLY
HANNAH AND HER SISTERS
THE PHILADELPHIA STORY
THE FRENCH LI.'S WOMAN
RUSSIA HOUSE
THE BIG EASY
REAR WINDOW
BAGHDAD CAFE
SUGARBABY

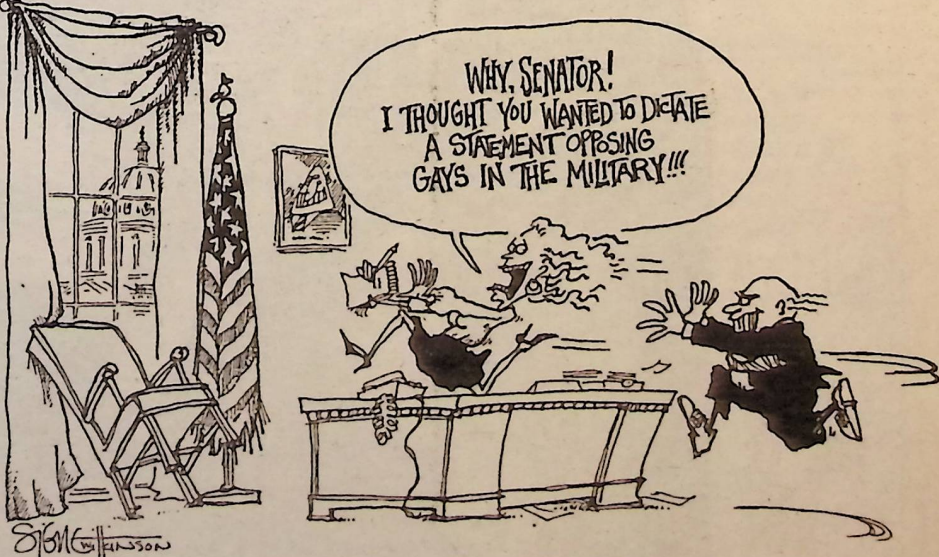
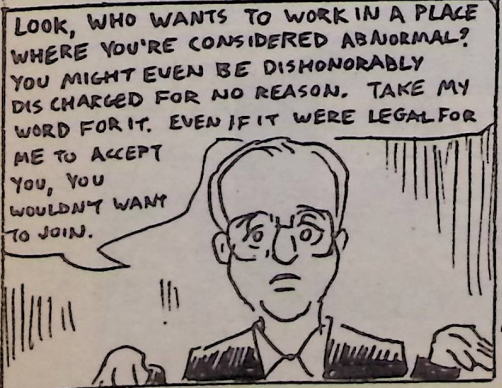
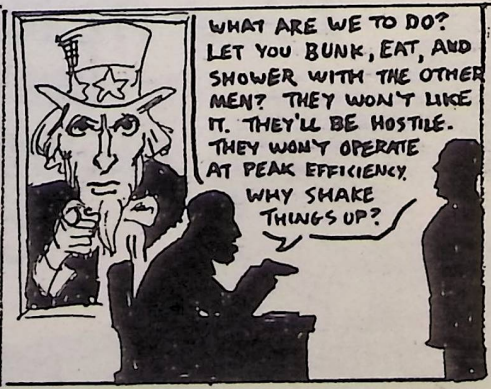
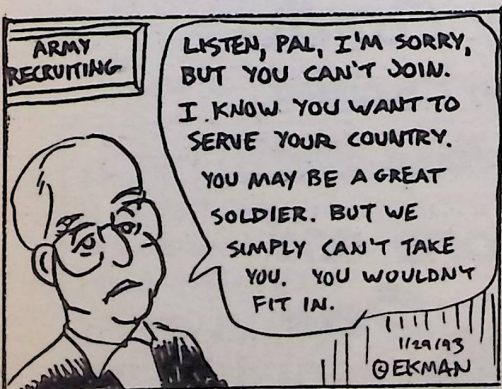
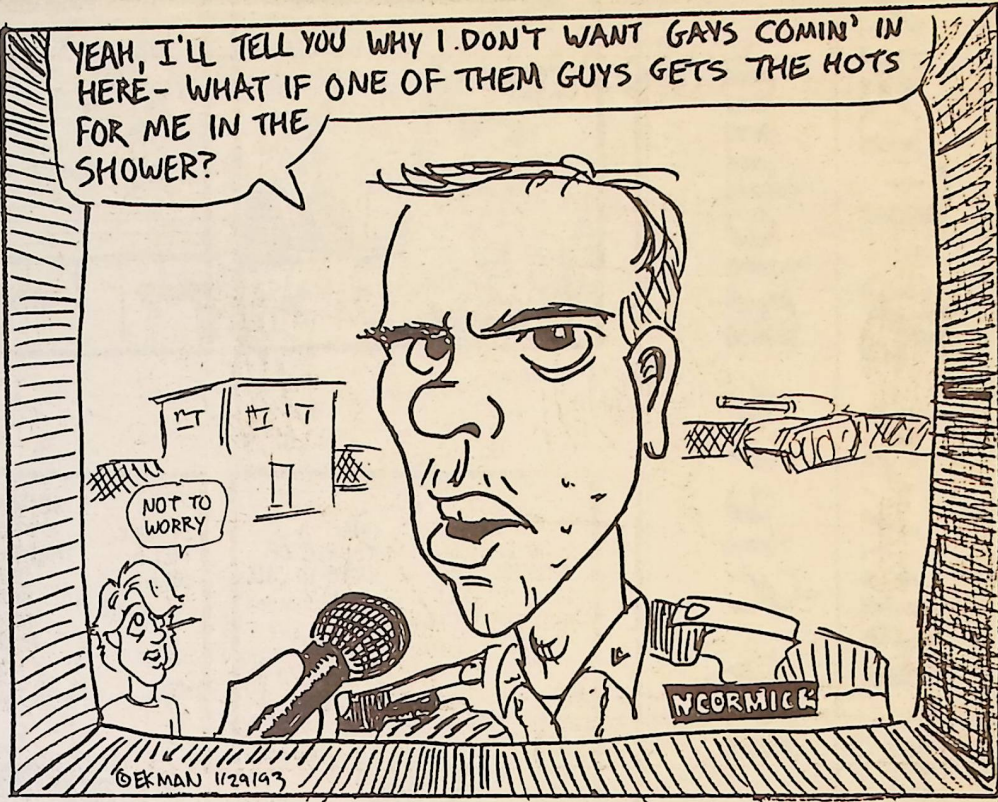
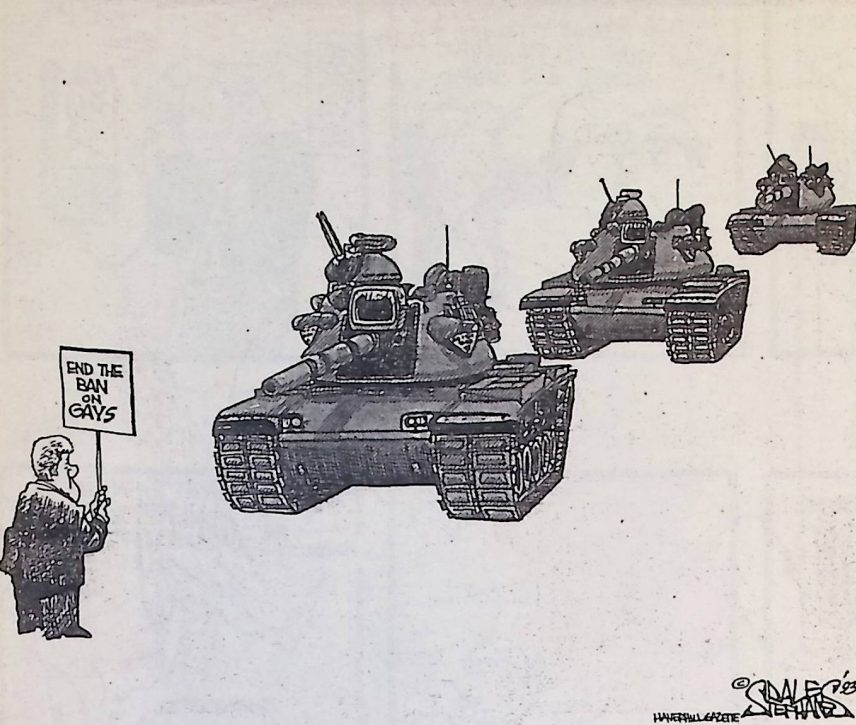
AROMANTIC

DANGEROUS LIASIONS
 FATAL ATTRACTION
 BRAZIL
 THE GRIFTERS
 ENEMIES: A LOVE STORY
 APARTMENT ZERO
 TERMINATOR I, II
 anything by ALMODÓVAR
 MEN
 SURELY VALENTINE
 ALICE
 THELMA AND LOUISE
 THE MALTESE FALCON

Now, If I Can Just Figure Out How This Thing Works....

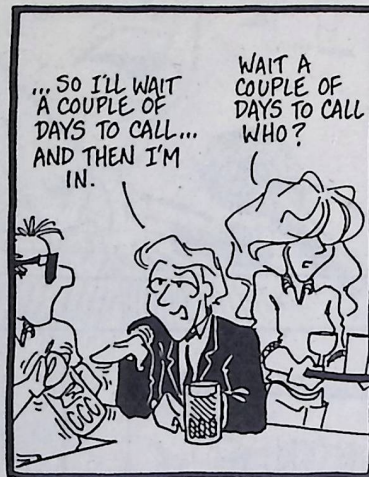
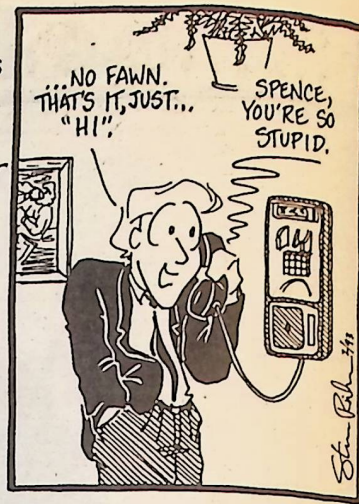
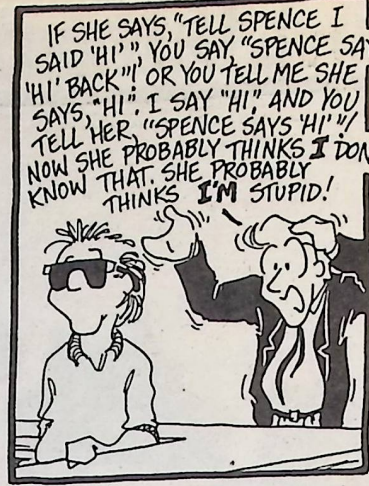


MARCHING TO A DIFFERENT DRUMMER

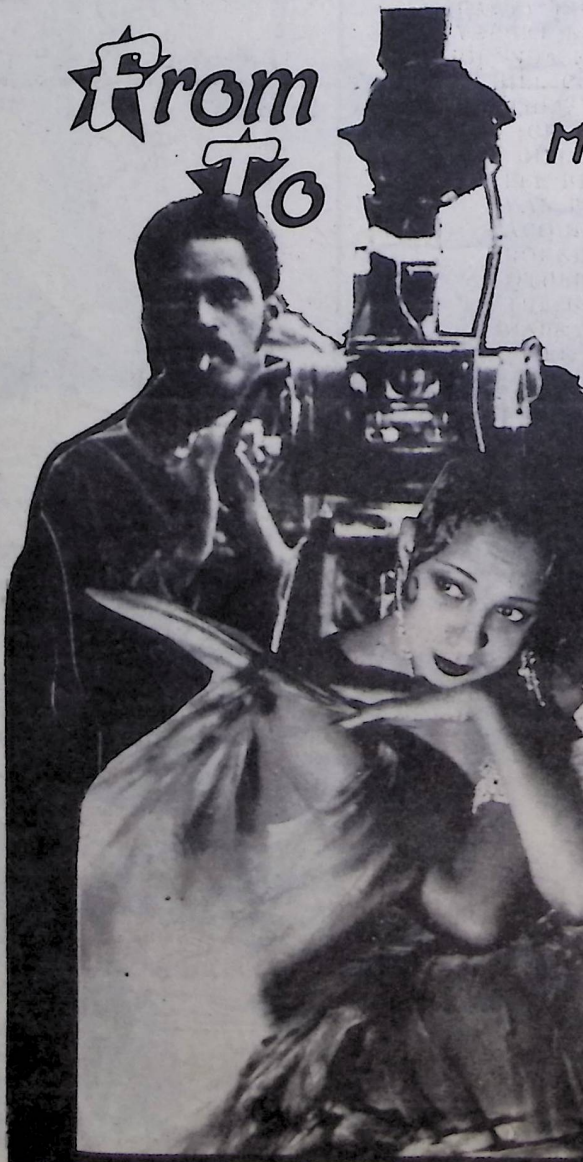


THE BRASS & FERN

By Steve Riehm



From
To



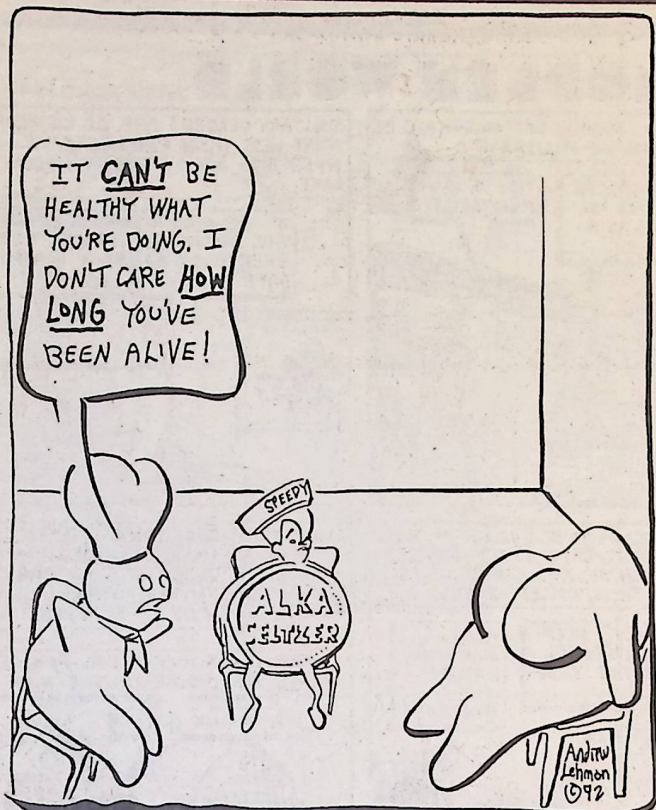
Josephine Baker's
Mekhi Von Peeble's
and beyond,

**ZOU ZOU
SWEETBACK**

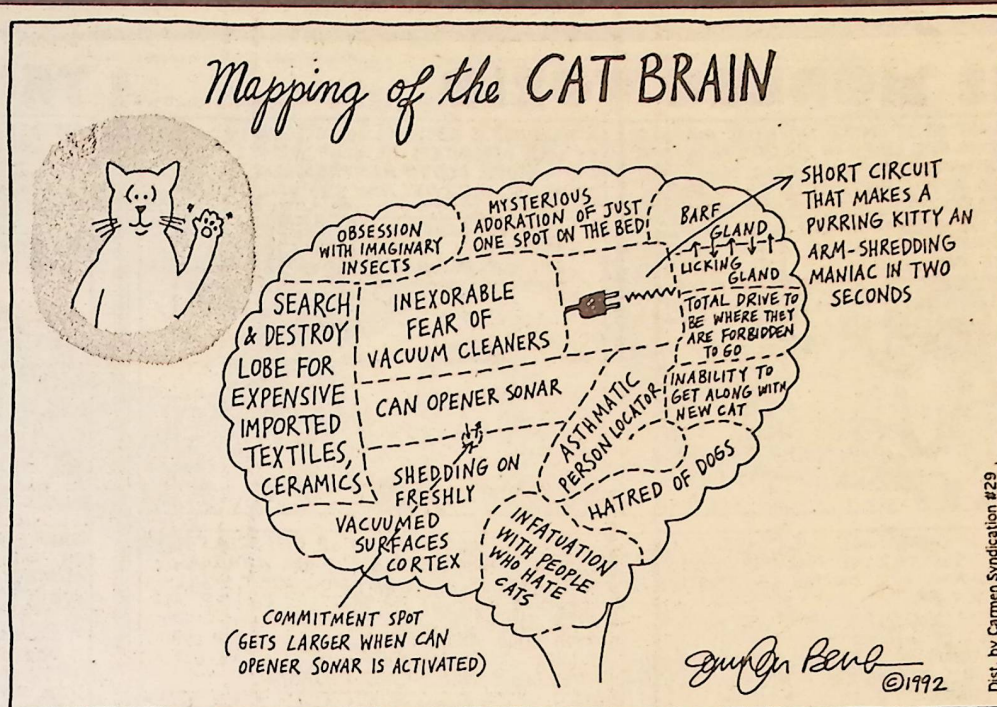
PSTV Celebrates
Black History Month
With an Expanded
Black History Library
Come and
See!



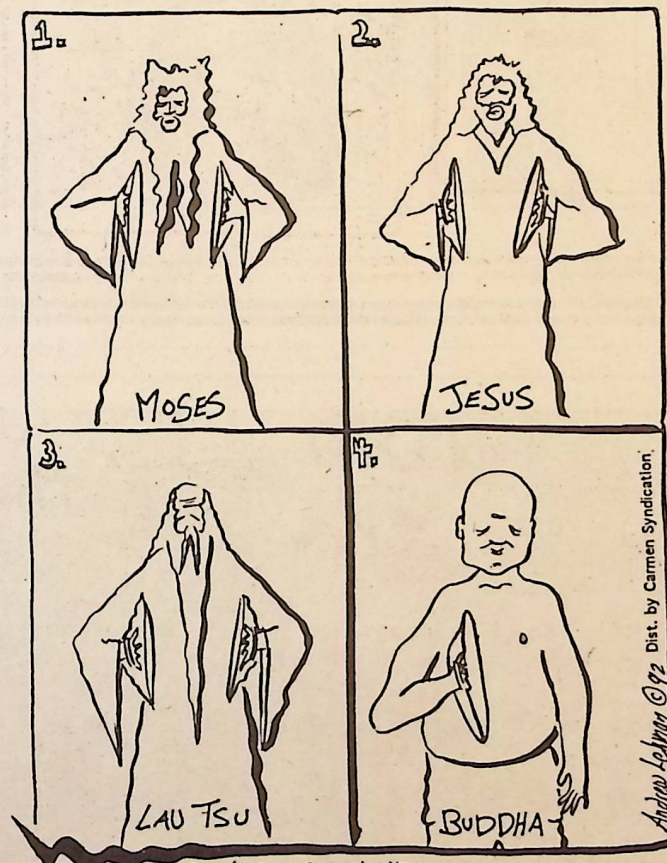
BEYOND POLITIX



THE PILLSBURY DOUGHBOY AND SPEEDY ALKASELTZER CONFRONT
ASTARTE THE EARTH GODDESS IN THEIR OVEREATERS GROUP.



HAVE YOU SEEN "WALT DISNEY ON ICE?" HE'S VERY WELL-PRESERVED.



RELIGIOUS CYMBALISM

IS THAT **OVERFLOWING EGO** CAUSING UNSIGHTLY MISHAPS?
IS HE JUST TOO SELF-CENTERED FOR HIS
OWN GOOD, AND THE SAFETY OF
LOVED ONES NEARBY?

TRY NEW MANPAX!™ SIGHTLESS.
ODORLESS. DISCREET. WILL MAKE HIM
APPEAR TO ACTUALLY THINK OF OTHERS!

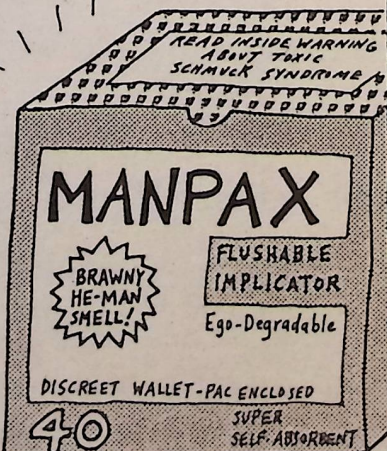
SIMPLY INSERT IN HIS EGO, AND GO!

- SWIM! • PLAY COMPETITIVE SPORTS!
- ARGUE with the confidence of knowing you may be wrong AND you'll SURVIVE!

• NOW YOU CAN EVEN GIVE IN / AFTER BEFORE

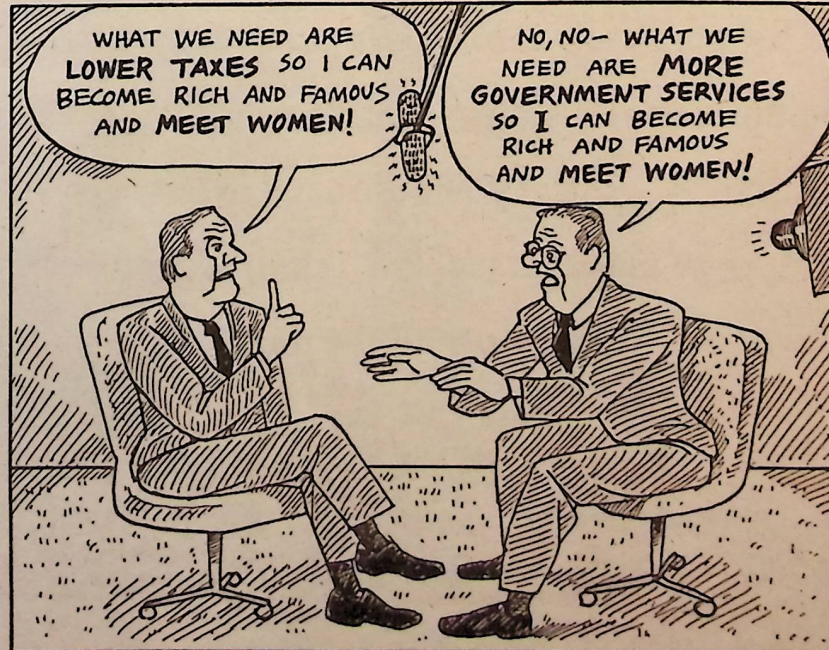


USED REGULARLY, THE MANPAI™ MAN WILL ACTUALLY ASK YOU QUESTIONS!



3 STYLES: SELF-ABSORBENT
/ SUPER SELF-ABSORBENT and
MAMMOTH IVY-LEAGUE HUNGRY-EGO

James B. Burt © 1991



TOMORROW ON DONAHUE: ADULT CHILDREN OF ELVIS!

THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

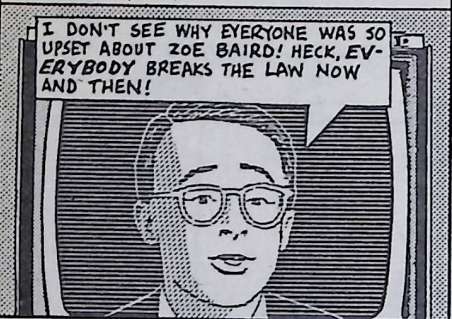
THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW © 2-9-93

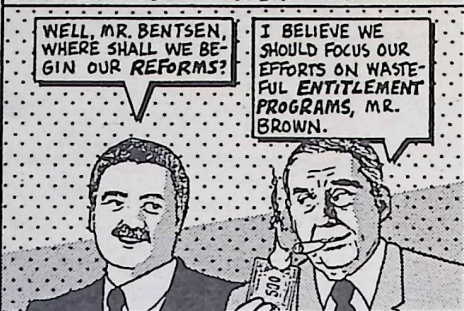
JUST THINK OF IT--A PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL FEATURING THE LIKES OF **BARRY MANILOW** AND **FLEETWOOD MAC**! WHO WOULD HAVE EVER DREAMED A PRESIDENT COULD BE SO HIP?



THE SIGNS OF CHANGE ARE **EVERYWHERE**! ON CNN'S "**CROSSFIRE**" THE FAWNING APOLOGIST FOR POWER NOW SITS ON THE **LEFT** RATHER THAN THE **RIGHT**...



A **NEW DAY** IS ABOUT TO BE USHERED IN...ALBEIT BY SUCH APPOINTEES AS CONSUMMATE POLITICAL INSIDER **LOYD BENTSEN** AND FORMER DUVALIER LOBBYIST **RON BROWN**...



YES, THINGS ARE GOING TO BE DIFFERENT NOW! SURE, GOVERNMENT IS STILL THICK WITH CORPORATE LOBBYISTS...THE U.S. WILL MOST LIKELY CONTINUE TO FLEX ITS MILITARY MUSCLE ALL OVER THE GLOBE...DESPERATE HAITIAN REFUGEES WILL STILL BE TURNED AWAY FROM OUR SHORES... BUT WHO CARES--WHEN WE'VE GOT A PRESIDENT WHO WEARS **RAY-BANS**?



THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW © 2-9-93

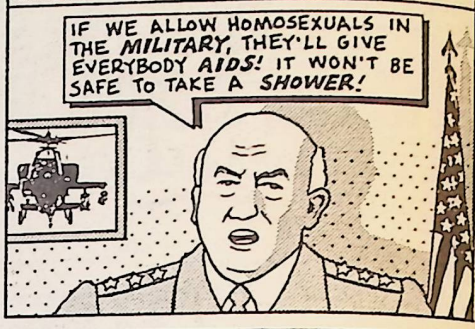
THE DEBATE RAGES...SHOULD GAY AMERICANS BE ALLOWED TO SERVE IN THE **MILITARY**?



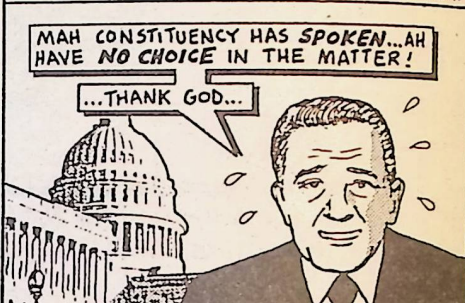
POLLS SHOW AMERICANS TO BE EVENLY DIVIDED ON THE ISSUE... HOWEVER, IT IS THE **SMALL-MINDED** AND **HATEFUL** WHO ARE BEING EXHORTED TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD...



MILITARY LEADERS ARE, BY THEIR NATURE, SOMEWHAT LESS THAN **PROGRESSIVE**...A FACT WHICH HAS BEEN MADE PAINFULLY CLEAR OF LATE...



SINCE MORE **TOLERANT** CITIZENS RECEIVE NO SUCH EXHORTATIONS, WASHINGTON IS FLOODED BY OVERWHELMINGLY **NEGATIVE** RESPONSES...GIVING COWARDLY CONGRESS-PEOPLE AN EXCUSE TO **SIDESTEP** THE ISSUE...



Insurance

Normally, You'd think "Yeah, so what?" But with winter still here and the student population returning, you should be thinking "Collision Insurance" because you can be sure that if you don't have it, some college freshman who's driving Grandma's '72 LTD is going to be driving too fast in your vicinity, and he's going to be driving on ice. You can also be sure that rather than hitting a telephone pole, he's going to hit your new car. What's worse is that he is going to be from someplace like Rhode Island and he'll be uninsured. "Golly," you'll be thinking, "I'm sure glad that I insured with John Copen for hassle free insurance." And if you didn't... Life will have it's ups and downs, and so will your quarterpanels.

...Sort of makes you think "Home Owner's" or "Tenant Renter's Insurance." With the fire in the wood stove and all that snow on the roof... Maybe you should ask John Copen what kinds of policies he's got.

John Copen Insurance Agency

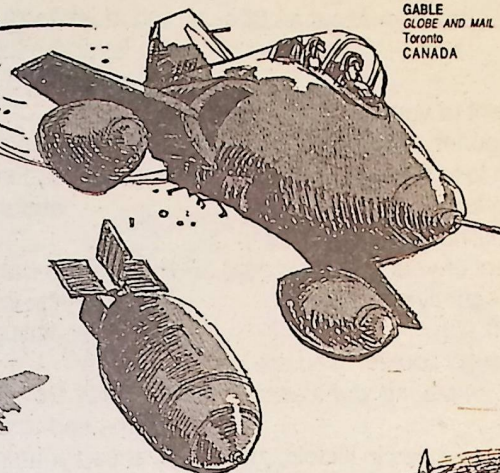
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Greenfield
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VIEWS OF THE WORLD



...GAYS IN THE MILITARY?!
I'M OPPOSED ON
MORAL
GROUNDS!

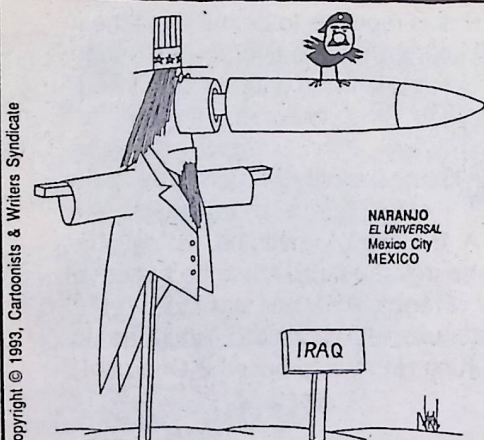


GABLE
GLOBE AND MAIL
Toronto
CANADA

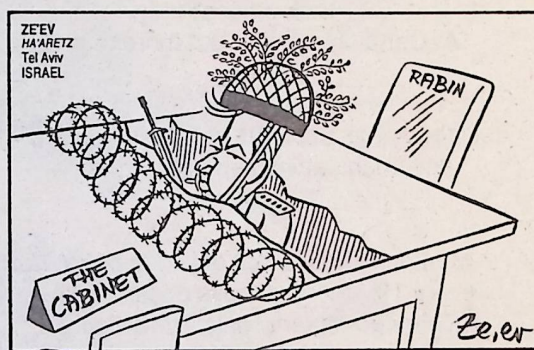


MOIR
MORNING HERALD
Sydney
AUSTRALIA

... AND PERHAPS DURING LUNCH
YOU CAN DEAL WITH BOSNIA,
ISRAEL, IRAQ, SOMALIA,
ANGOLA....



NIEK
NIEUWSBLAD
Rotterdam
NETHERLANDS



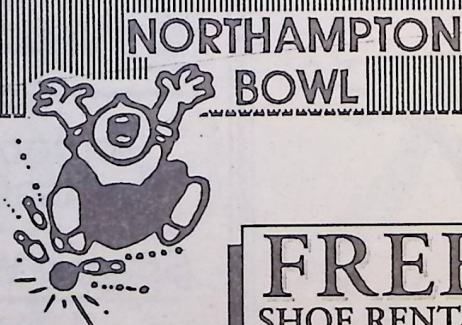
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ENTRENCHED POSITION



ZLATKOVSKY
MOSCOW NEWS
Moscow
RUSSIA

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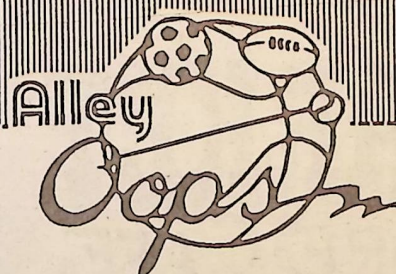
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Monaco, along the south coast of France, is on the same latitude as Portland, Maine.

Q. You said "companionship" always ranks first in those surveys asking what people most want out of marriage. What comes in second?
A. "Reciprocated love." Then, "financial security," "reliable sex," and "intellectual stimulation."

Massachusetts has 106 colleges and universities.

In 1895 Congress passed a law to require every town of 50,000 people to set up free public baths.

The French writer Andre Gide said, "It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not."

About three-quarters of the nutritional value in a pumpkin is in the seeds.

Census-takers in China's Guangzhou (formerly Canton) report it's not extraordinary for 20,000 bicyclists to cross any of many intersections there in one hour.

Q. Which seabirds dive the deepest?
A. Penguins. They dive as far as 800 feet.

Lose 20 percent of your body's water, and you're a goner. Yet the medicos say you could lose 80 percent of your intestines, one lung, one kidney, every organ in the pelvic area, your spleen, and 75 percent of your liver, and still survive.

Found in a fortune cookie: "You are in your own way — please stand aside."

There are 102 counties in Illinois, and they all grow soybeans.

Legal scholars estimate there are 35 million laws to enforce the Ten Commandments. And many more that don't. For instance, in England, it's illegal to wrestle in public with an untrained bull.

Q. Are there any parasites among mammals?
A. Only one. The vampire bat.

Among the better New Year's toasts: "May the worst of this year be even better than the best of last year!"

Forty-five pounds doesn't seem like too much to lift. But when you lift it, you leverage 900 pounds of pressure on the third disc of your back.

The word "crummy" to mean something undesirable has been around for about 400 years.

The ancient Babylonians decreed the death penalty for anyone convicted of selling bad beer.

The writer Dorothy L. Sayers said this: "Time and trouble will tame an advanced young woman, but an advanced old woman is uncontrollable by any earthly force."

Q. Do all doctors keep handguns in their offices?
A. Certainly not all. But more than half do.

Nobody has even the slightest idea of how many animal species live on earth.

Marketers figure that only one out of every 10 American boys doesn't own a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle figure.

It's true that water seeks its own level. But it can't always find it. In the oceans, that level can vary by 600 feet. If there's a mountain range out there, like the Hawaiian chain, its gravitational pull raises the water level around it.

New England is bigger than old England.

Your thumb is about the size of a crocodile's brain.

Publishers say they have to sell at least 4,000 rightly-priced books to break even.

This is reported to be the first time in history when the average American has more living parents than living children.

Q. Name the only woman to be queen of two European countries.
A. Eleanor of Aquitaine. At age 15, she married Louis VII to be Queen of France. After her marriage was annulled 15 years later, she married King Henry II to become Queen of England.

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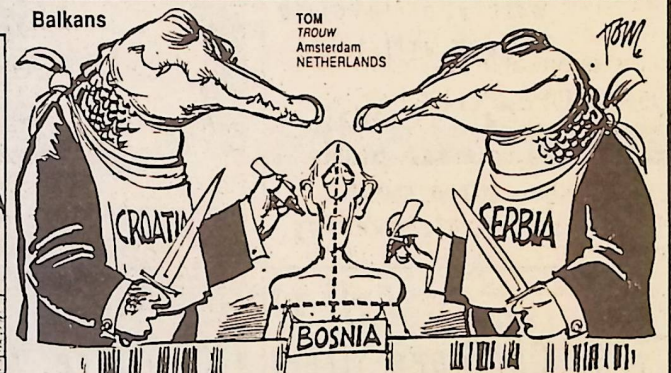
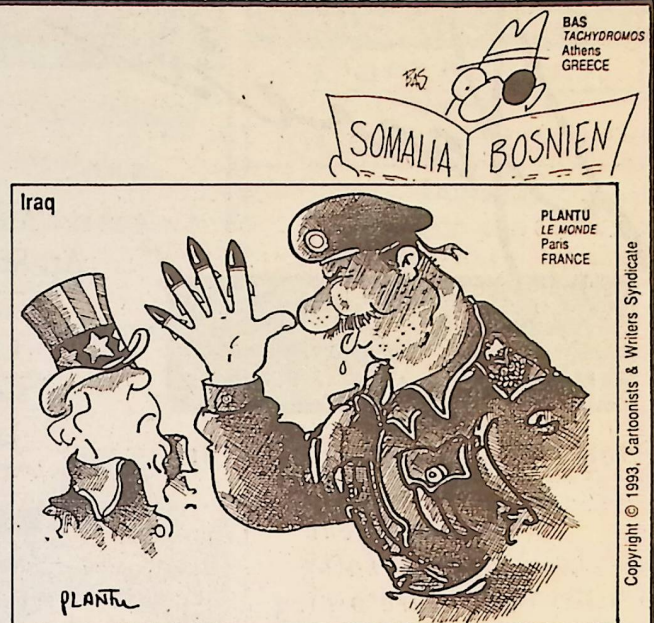
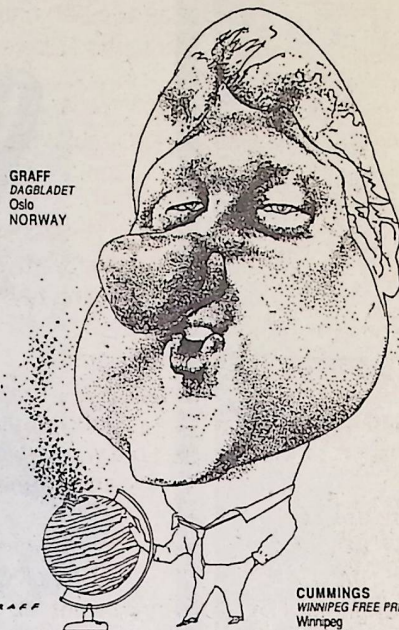
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VIEWS OF THE WORLD



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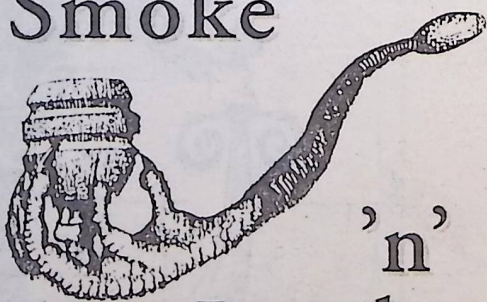


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'n'
Leather



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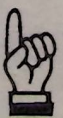
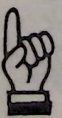
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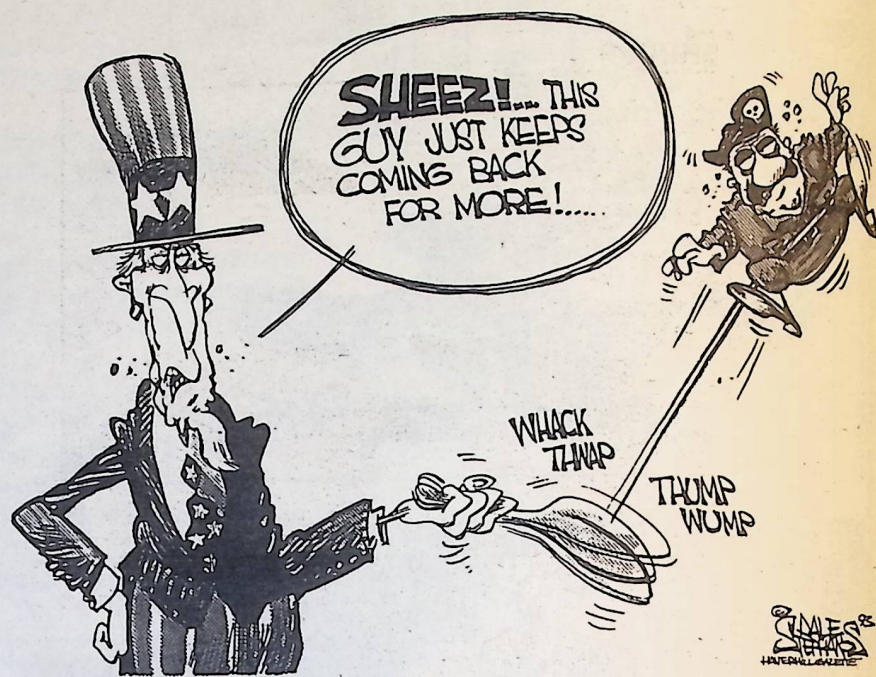
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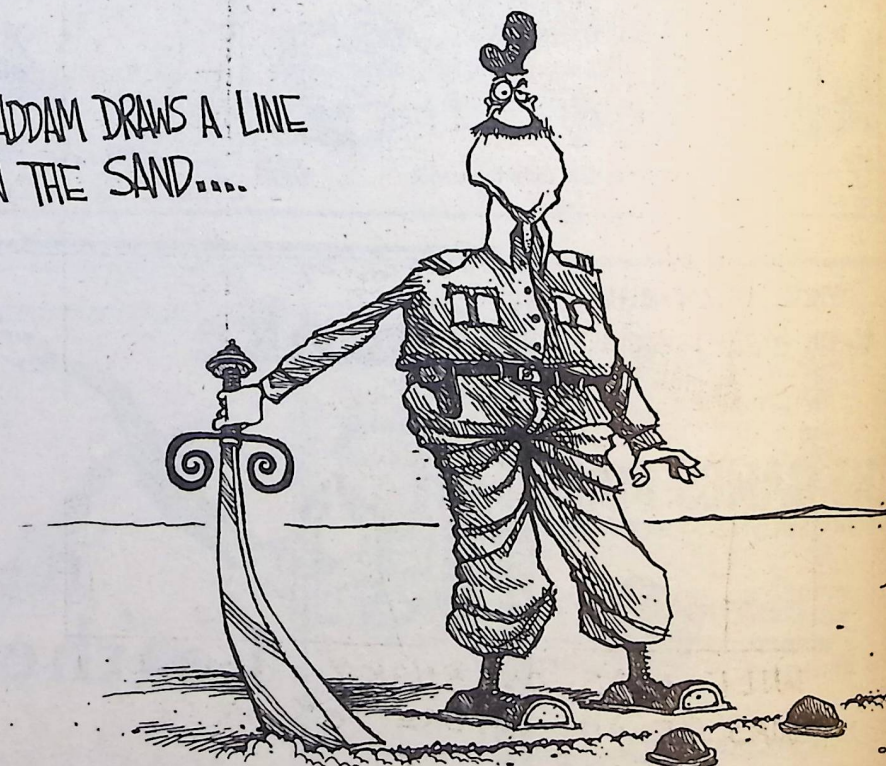
Andy Nicotera



IRAQ AND RUIN



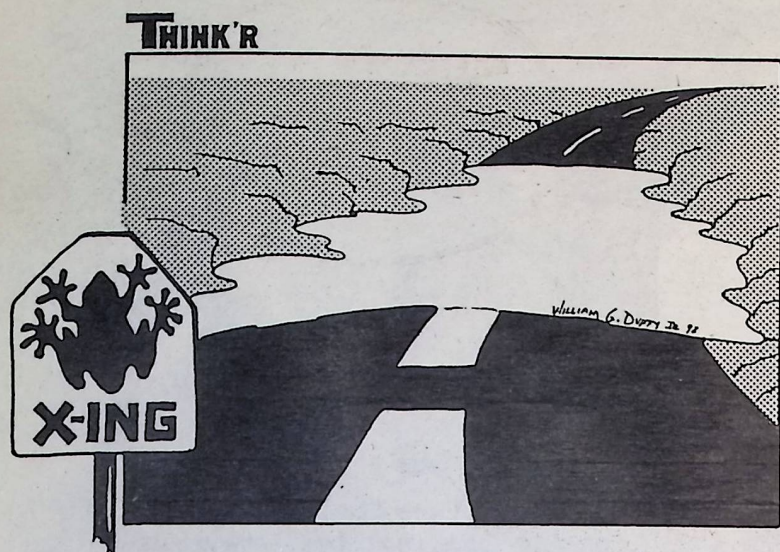
SADDAM DRAWS A LINE
IN THE SAND....



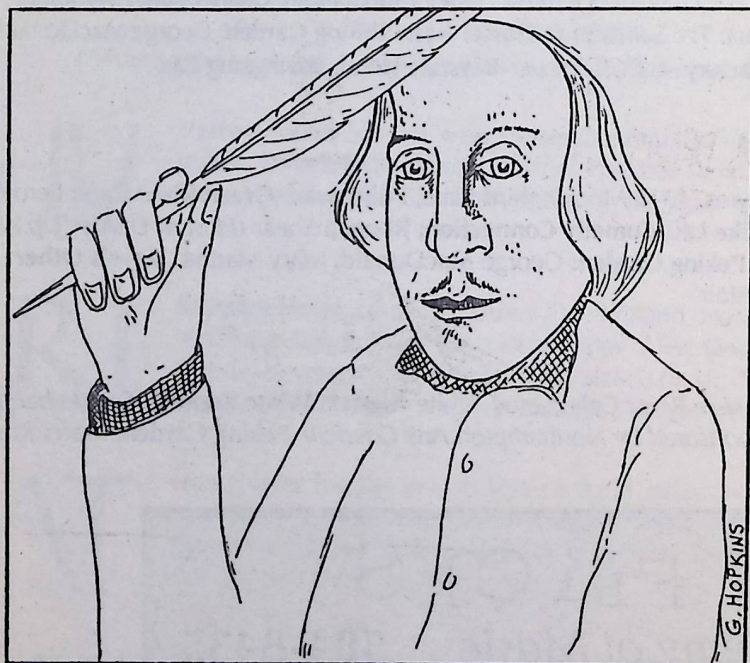
MATT DAVIES ©1993 EXPRESS



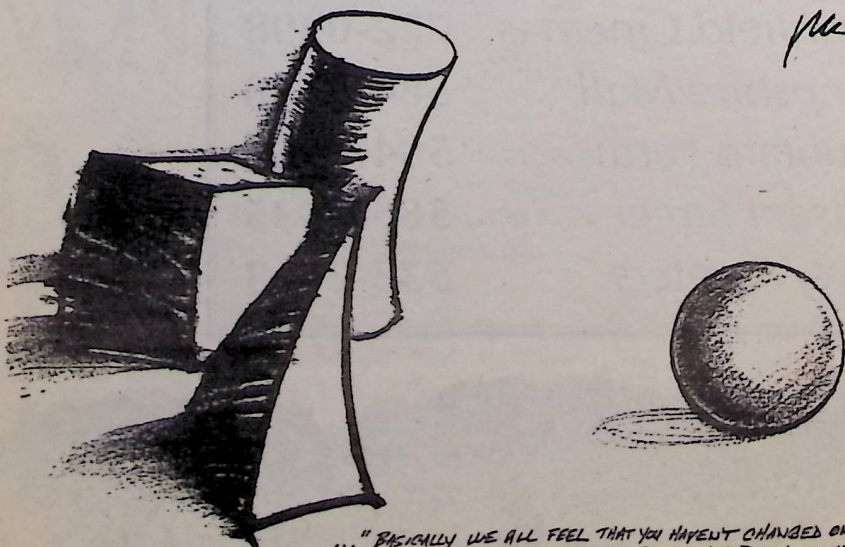
LOCAL HEROES



dog feathers by Giles Hopkins



WILL WAS ON SHAKY GROUND.
WAS IT "i" BEFORE "e", OR "e"
BEFORE "i"?

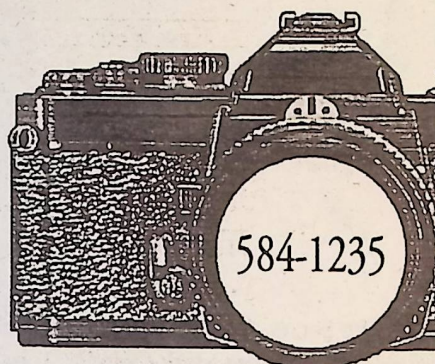


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WISSETHINGS



THU
ELEVEN

Iron Horse: Lucie Blue Tremblay **Vertex:** Selectrocution **Baystate Hotel:** The Mess **Dave's Other Place:** Art Steele Blues Band
City Cafe: DJ w/ dance music **Pearl Street:** Murphy's Law, Patchwork Revolution **Alley Oops:** DJ Bobby C—all requests

FRI
TWELVE

Alley Oop's: The Secret **Dave's Other Place:** Café Society **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection:** Polynesian Show **Hotel Northampton:** Mark Melucci, Tom Savoy **Pearl Street:** The Saints **Iron Horse:** Altan **Peking Garden:** George MacDonald, Mary Martha **Green River Cafe:** Cathy Winter **Vertex:** Cosmos Factory — CCR Tribute **Baystate Hotel:** Southgoing Zax

SAT
THIRTEEN

Vertex: Selectrocution **Baystate Hotel:** Baystate Cabaret: The Lyres, 1313 Mockingbird Lane, Puddywad **Green River Cafe:** Leroy White **Iron Horse:** Aztec Two-Step **Pearl Street:** Free Press **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection:** Rhonda Shear (*Host of USA's "Up All Night"*) **Alley Oop's:** The Secret **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Peking Garden:** George MacDonald, Mary Martha **Dave's Other Place:** Jac Varonesi **Hotel Northampton:** Tom Savoy, Chalyce Blair

SUN
FOURTEEN

Alley Oop's: New Country Night **Iron Horse:** Garnet Rogers **Green River Cafe:** Leroy White **Vertex:** White Zombie (*Seattle band*) **Academy of Music:** Wilde About Oscar w/ Vincent Dowling (*Sponsored by Northampton Arts Council*) **Peking Garden:** Marci Rose

MON
FIFTEEN

Pearl Street: Thelonius Monster
Green River Cafe: "Ware" — a film
Iron Horse: Michael Beatty

TUE
SIXTEEN

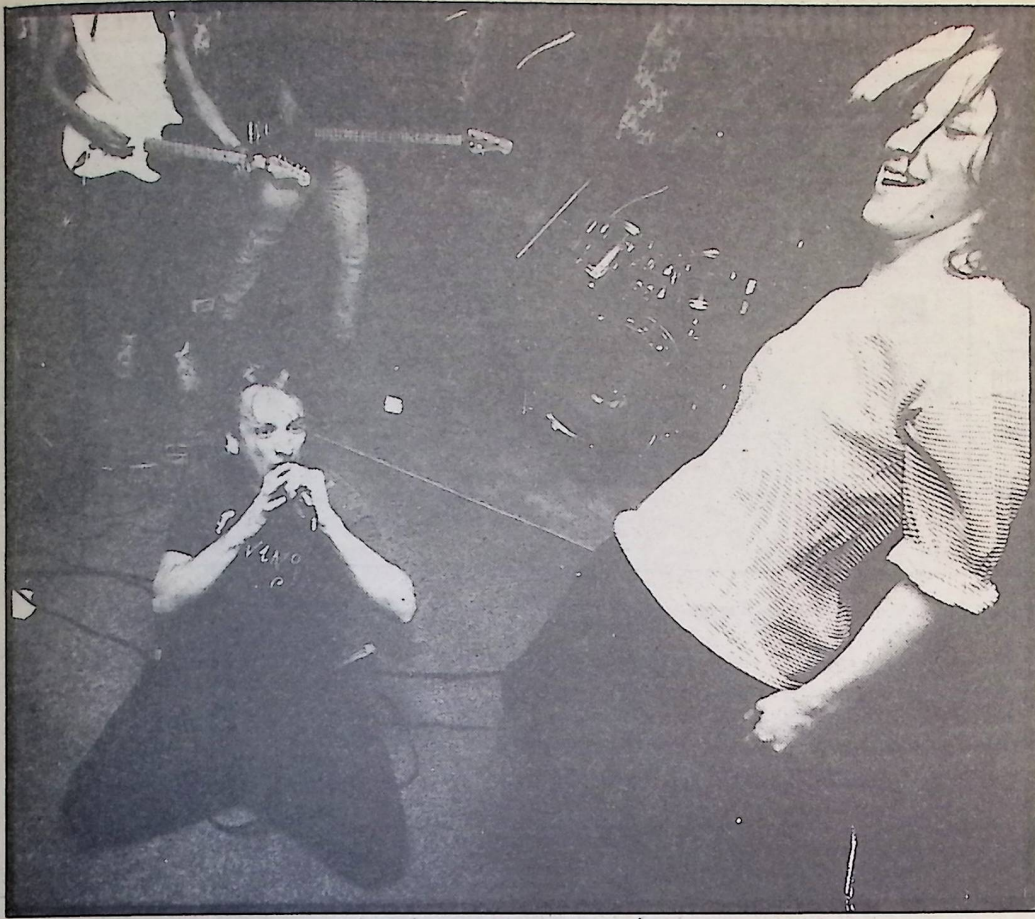
Iron Horse: The Bombastics

WED
SEVENTEEN

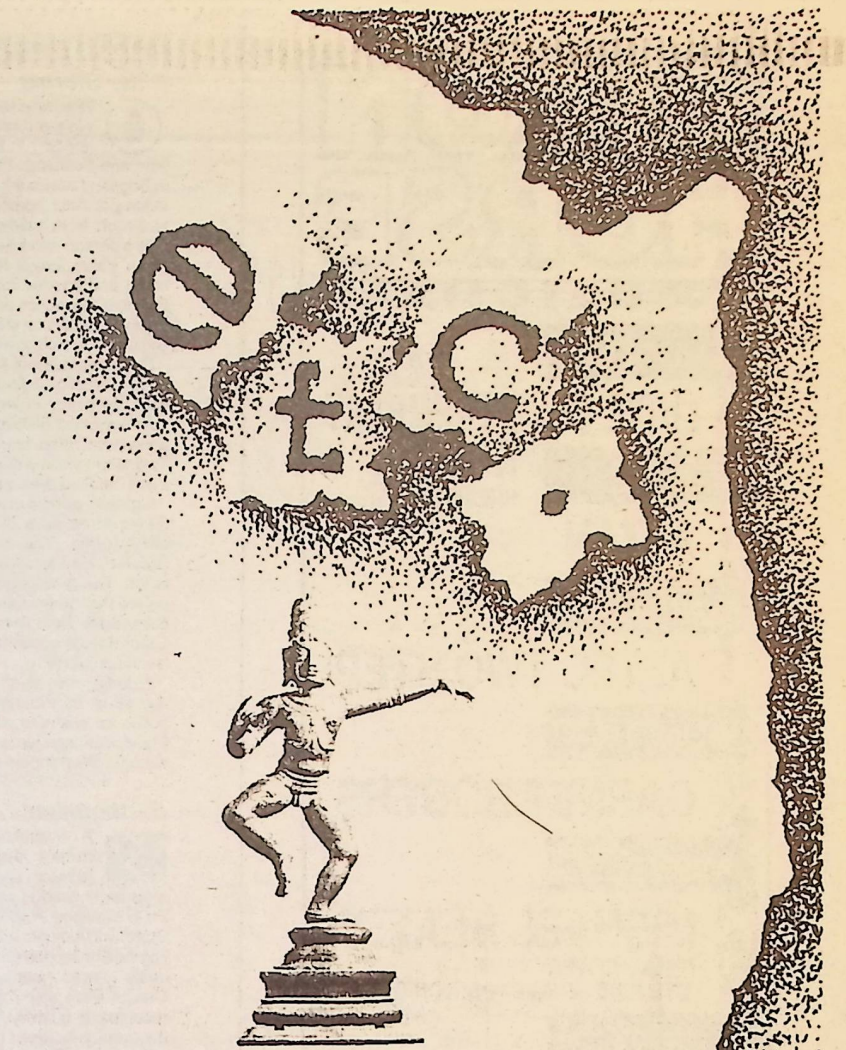
Vertex: Reggae: New Horizon
Iron Horse: Sweet Lizard Illtet
Dave's Other Place: George Lenker

FLICKS

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The Rent Party at The Bay State
(Sheehan's is dead; Long live Sheehan's!) Tobey photo



THU
EIGHTEEN

Vertex: Selectrocution **Iron Horse:** Deborah Franciose Group **Alley Oops:** All Request w/ DJ Bobby C. **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Dave's Other Place:** Rhythm Rockers **Baystate Hotel:** Songwriters Showcase: Paul Rocha, Kevin Keady, Amy Fairchild, Steve Westfield, Al Giordano, Lesley Smith, Daxe Rexford **Pearl Street:** Shockra

FRI
NINETEEN

Baystate Hotel: Equalites, Urban Family Band **Hotel Northampton:** Tom Savoy, Charlie Schmidt **Dave's Other Place:** Tom McClung **Green River Cafe:** Peter Miles **Alley Oops:** The Choice **Pearl Street:** California Playgirl Centerfolds—*upstairs* Texas Flood—*downstairs* **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Peking Garden:** Ron Lynch, Lauren Dombrowski **Iron Horse:** The Low Road, plus Knots & Crosses **Amherst College Campus Center:** Big Shoulders **Vertex:** Eddie Money unplugged

SAT
TWENTY

Iron Horse: The Big Waaah Scratch Band **Alley Oops:** The Choice **Dave's Other Place:** Greg Lent & Shelton Laster **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection:** Mark DeCarlo (*Host of "Studs"*) **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Peking Garden:** Ron Lynch, Lauren Dombrowski **Hotel Northampton:** Charlie Schmidt, Chalyce Blair **Green River Cafe:** Ron Freshley Jazz Group **Baystate Hotel:** Pop Black, Hector **Pearl Street:** Eight To The Bar **Vertex:** Selectrocution

SUN
TWENTYONE

Alley Oops: New Country w/ DJ Mike P. **Green River Cafe:** Poets & Players **Amherst College Campus Center:** The Story, Justina & Joyce **Academy of Music:** Child's Play: A Children's Performance Showcase, w/ 10 area children's performance groups. MC — Roger Tincknell **Vertex:** Reign Dance

MON
TWENTYTWO

Iron Horse: Poetry slam

TUE
TWENTYTHREE

Iron Horse: John Scofield Quartet
Green River Cafe: Open Mike, w/ Rob Skelton
Baystate Hotel: Mardi Gras Night: Mentos, New Horizon
Pearl Street: Techo-rave dance party

WED
TWENTYFOUR

Iron Horse: 14th Anniversary Concert: Patty Larkin
Vertex: Reggae: New Horizon



EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman

Eruptions



Mayon Volcano erupted without warning in the central Philippines, spewing a plume of gritty ash nearly three miles into the sky. Authorities said that scores of villagers were missing and feared dead from the disaster, while thousands of others fled the mountain in cars, trucks, and ox-carts. Magma still building within the volcano led volcanologists to fear that an even more powerful explosion may be imminent.

Officials in western Mexico declared a state of alert because of the eruption of what may be a new volcano on Socorro Island, about 300 miles south of the tip of Baja California. Some reports said the activity was coming from the 3,960-foot Everman Volcano, one of the two known to exist on the island, but the Excelsior news agency said it could be the birth of a new volcano.

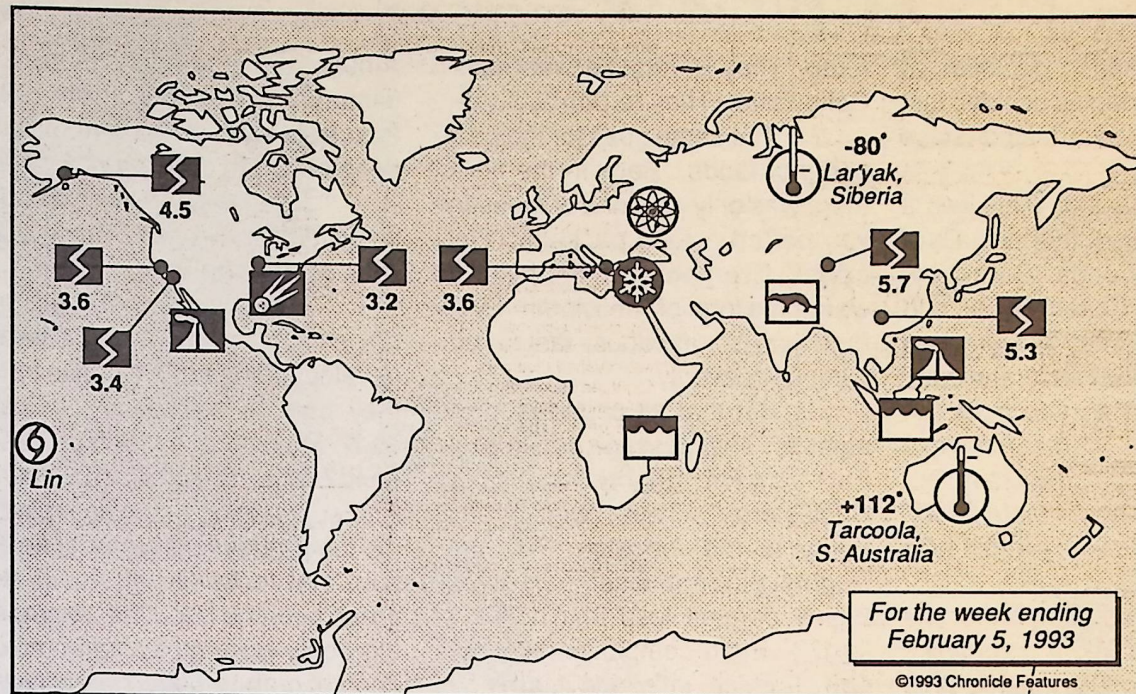
Floods



Floods swelling rivers and lakes in parts of eastern Africa derailed a Kenyan train packed with 600 passengers and killed at least 33 people in neighboring Tanzania as the region emerges from the worst drought in living memory. A flash flood sent the night train from Mombasa to Nairobi tumbling into a river called God Save Us on Jan. 30. At least 140 passengers were swept to their death or died on impact with the raging river.

Bridges and roads have been swept away across a wide area, and the inundations may cause heavy crop losses. Kenya Wildlife director Richard Leakey said that roads in the Ambrosli park, a popular tourist destination, were impassable and a huge lake had formed there following weeks of heavy rainfall.

In Indonesia, about 600,000 people across Java were forced to higher ground following incessant heavy rains. Floods and landslides have taken 34 lives and paralyzed traffic links over the island.



Wintery Woes



A winter storm spawned blizzards and heavy snowfall from Turkey to the deserts of the Middle East. Schools and shops were shut in Jordan, which received as much as 30 inches of snowfall in the northern mountains. Palestinian youths in the Israeli-occupied West Bank threw snowballs at passing cars instead of the usual stones. As the storm moved into the more temperate climes of the northern Persian Gulf, it produced heavy downpours that swamped roads and caused several houses to collapse in Kuwait.

Fireball



Residents from Alabama to North Carolina were startled by a huge meteor that produced explosions and sonic booms as it streaked across the night sky. The sounds were so thunderous that some people thought that an earthquake had struck. Georgia

State University astronomer John Wilson said that the chunk of space rock appeared to break into three flaming pieces before hitting the ground.

Cat Attacks



Residents in a remote part of Nepal demanded official action after a leopard killed seven children and wounded a dozen adults during the past month. A report in the *Rising Nepal* daily newspaper said the killer leopard pounced on its victims at dusk, targeting children at play outside their homes.

Earthquakes



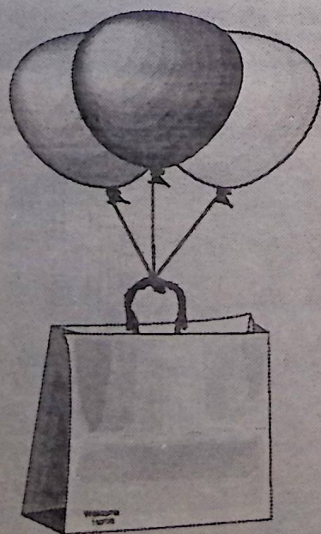
A moderate temblor measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale shook China's far western Xinjiang region, damaging houses and barns. Earth movements were also felt in China's Yunnan province, central Greece, Illinois, Alaska's Cook Inlet, and at southern and eastern points in California.

Nuclear Venom



A large part of the former Soviet Union is so contaminated with radioactivity that it is turning up in snake venom, according to a report in the British journal *Nature*. The contamination stems from planned releases of radioactive waste from nuclear fuel plants and accidents at atomic power plants, as well as surface and underground nuclear explosions from the Arctic to the Steppes of Central Asia. Some of the venom is being exported to the West for use in medicines and could cause radioactive poisoning in patients if the contamination is undetected during shipping and processing. A 4.5-pound consignment of snake venom was recently impounded by Russian customs officials because of its high radioactivity.

Additional Sources: Israeli Meteorological Institute, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization



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JOE BOB BRIGGS

The marketing geniuses at the big food companies decided last year that it's now *okay* if food tastes good.

I'm not kidding. This was a *controversial issue* within the halls of Kraft, General Foods, Sara Lee, Wonder Bread, Coke, Pepsi, and Mountain Dew. They actually had meetings where they sat around and said, "Well, what do you think the consumer wants in the nineties? Here's an idea. Call me crazy, but maybe the stuff should *taste good*."

And there were people who said, "Naaaah. Give it up."

And it turns out that, for the last ten years, a lot of companies have been purposely making food that *doesn't taste quite so good*, just so people will think it's good for them. You get the idea here? If you put out a Diet Coke that tastes exactly like Classic Coke, then whoever's drinking it starts to feel guilty. But make it taste *just a little bitter*, and — voila! — the person feels great! They've stayed on their diet, and they've suf-

fered. They've refused that Classic Coke taste. They're *good people*.

The same goes for the packaging of foods. Back in the fifties, there was only one kind of message you put on a food package: "Delicious!" Every word on the package was some form of "Delicious!" Every food was scrumptious, tasty, yum-yum, or heavenly.

But that all changed in the eighties. The message became "No Fat," "Low Fat," "Eighty Percent Less Cholesterol." (Those were always funny to me, because I'd think, "Eighty percent less than *what*? Eighty percent less than a tub of lard?") Even companies like Sara Lee — which, let's face it, are basically in the "stuff your face" business — started advertising "low sugar," "less cholesterol." But one thing the marketing guys *never, ever* put on their labels was "tastes great" — unless, of course, they added "less filling."

A hundred years from now, somebody will write a book about

America's eating habits in the 20th century, and it will say, "In the 1980s, food fads reached their apex when people started drinking *diet beer*."

If there's anything that oughta be bought on the basis of taste alone, it's a goldurn *beer*.

So anyhow, what these guys are saying is that a lot of people developed this brain disease where they said to themselves, "Tastes bad? Must be good for me. Tastes good? Must be *awful* for my health." And so anything that was just a big ole lump of syrupy sugar cake in a box, that looks like it would *taste* great, became about as welcome in a grocery store as a chain-smoking gang of orange-haired shoplifters in motorcycle jackets.

But this year, you know what people are eating?

According to *The New York Times*, Haagen-Dazs has increased its market share from 5.9 percent to 7.6 percent. And there are all these complicated explanations about why people feel it's okay to pig out on

high-fat ice cream.

I've got another explanation: It's only *food*. It's something you can put in your body like gas in a car. And then you can *forget it*. Wouldn't this be a lot simpler for everybody involved?

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous newsletter, write Joe Bob Briggs, PO Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221. Joe Bob's Fax line is always open: 214-368-2310. **COPYRIGHT 1993 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.**



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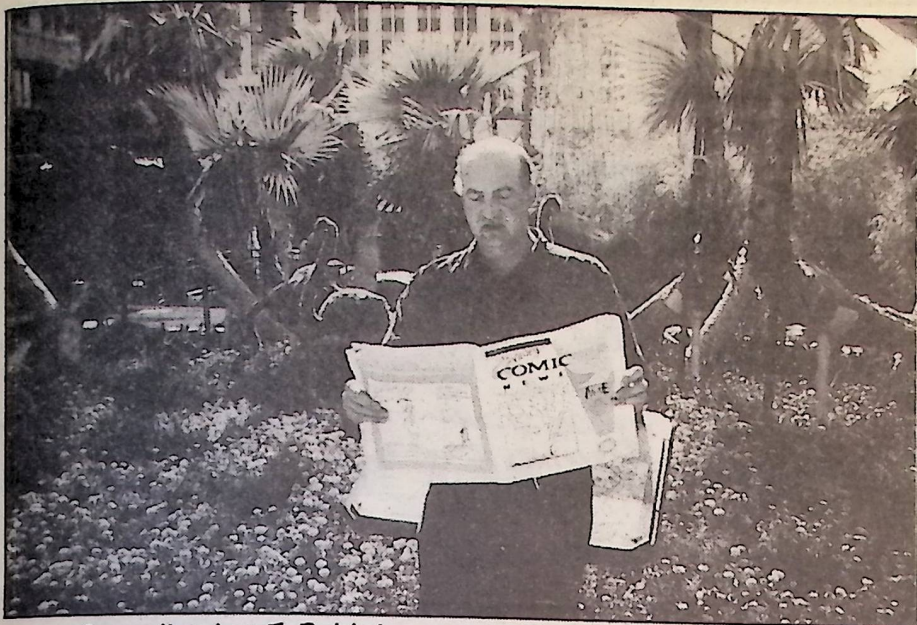
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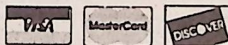
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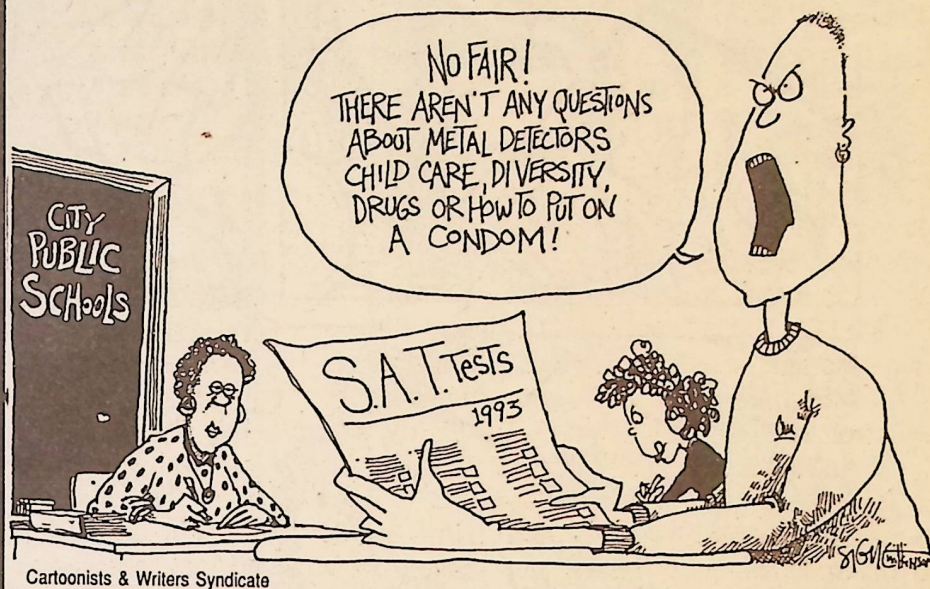


Photo: Jennifer Burdick

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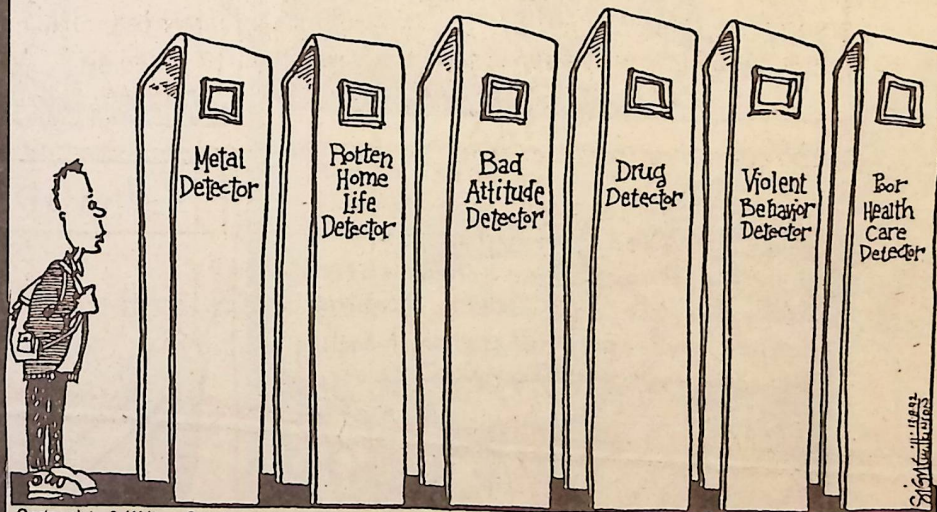
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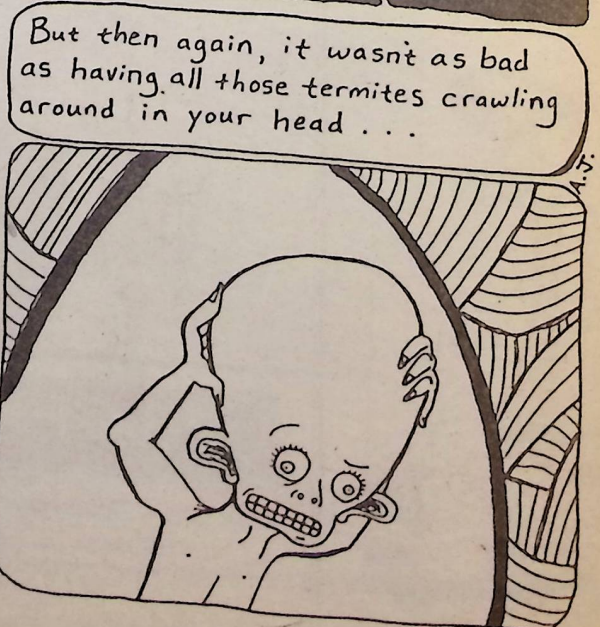
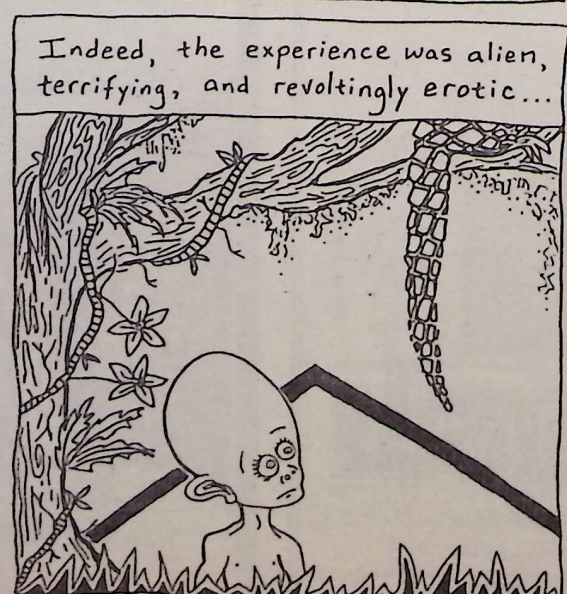
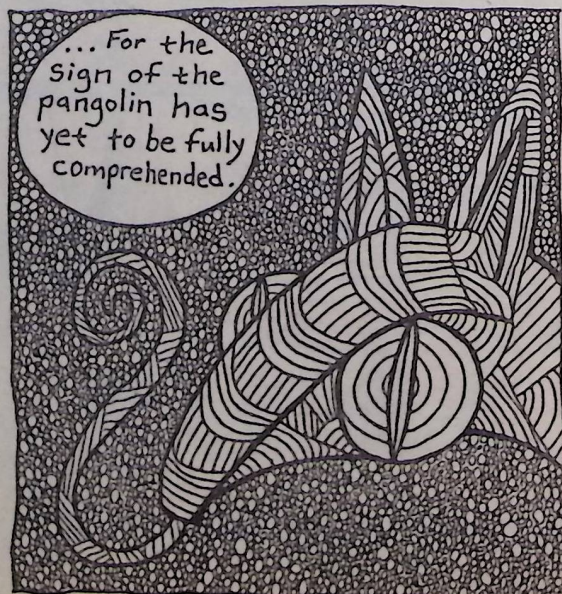
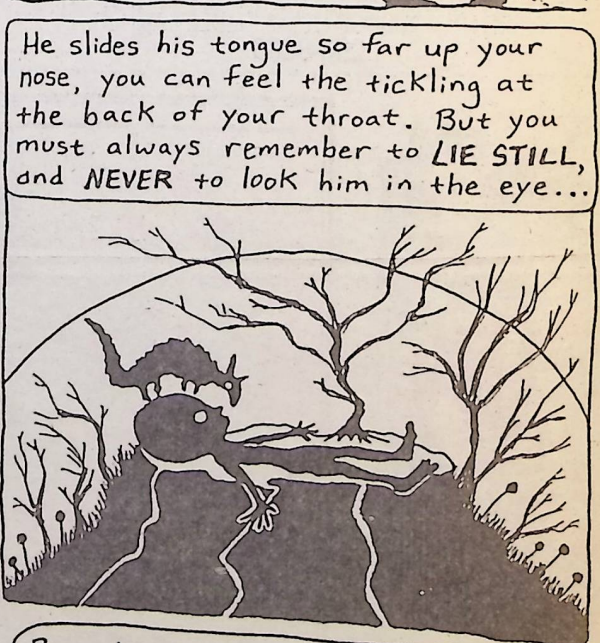
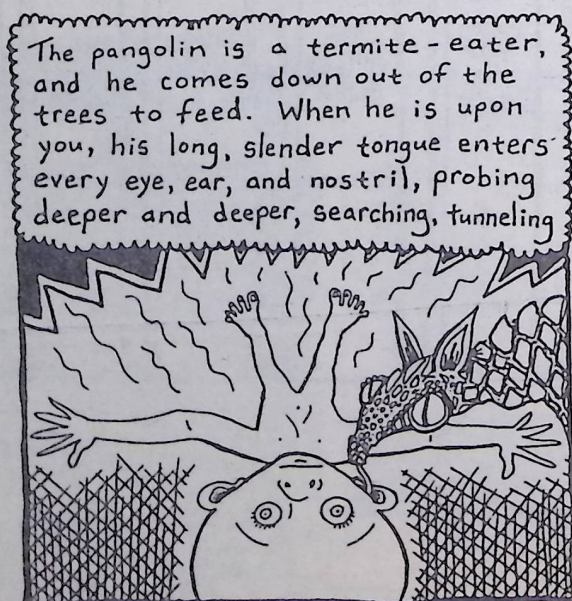
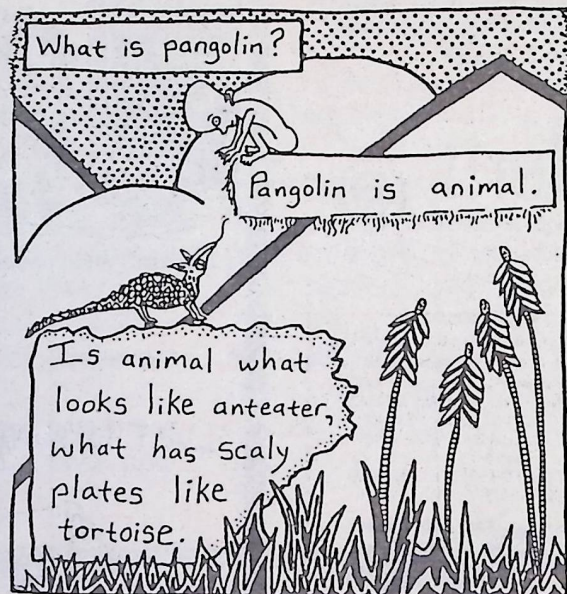
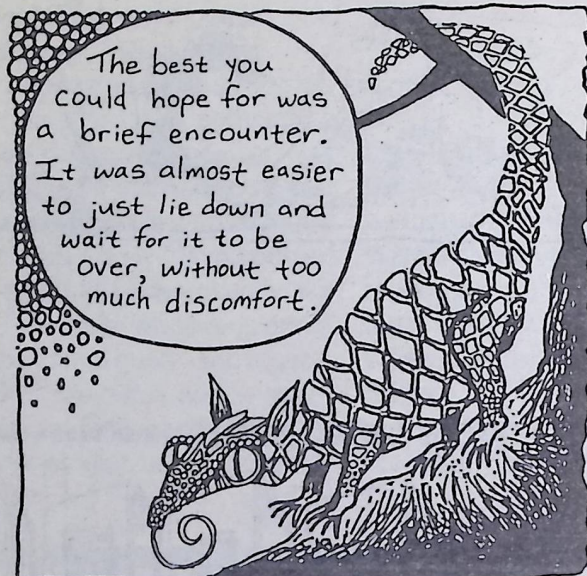
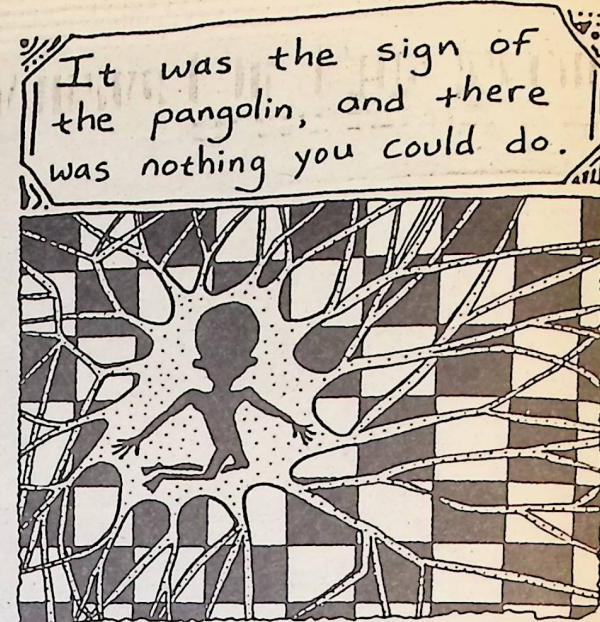
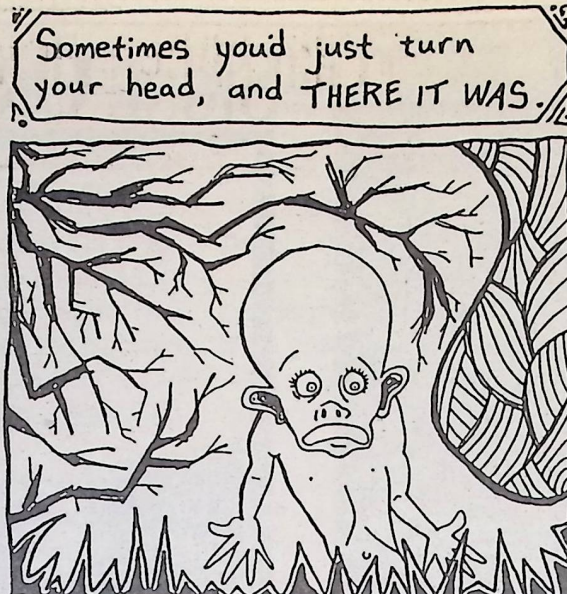
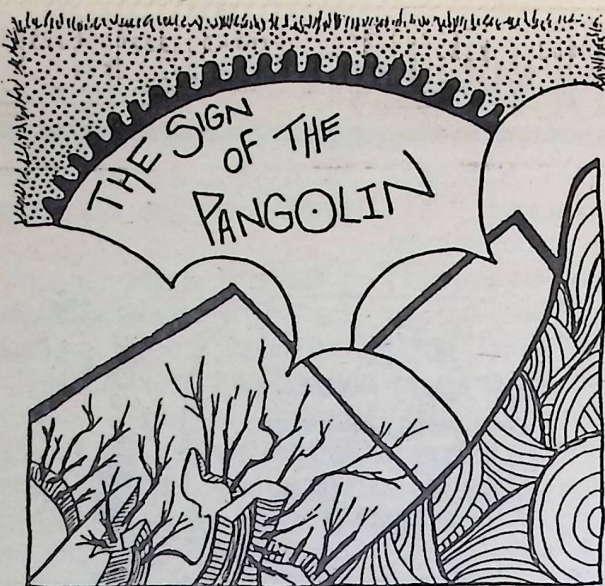
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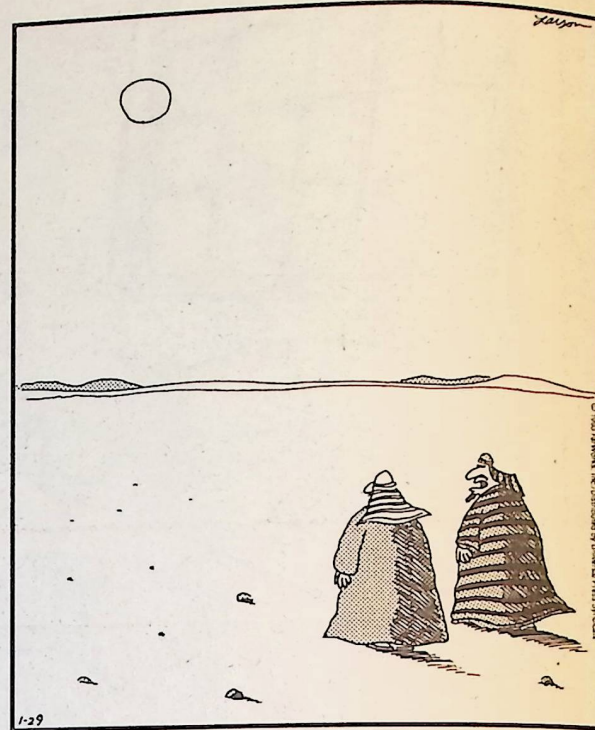
By GARY LARSON



"Well, kid, ya beat me — and now every punk packin' a paddle and tryin' to make a name for himself will come lookin' for you! ... Welcome to hell, kid."



Just as Dale entered the clearing and discovered, standing together, the Loch Ness Monster, Bigfoot and Jackie Onassis, his camera jammed.



"Our camels are dead, we have no water, and yet we must cross this desert if we are to survive. ... For the love of Allah, Omar, do you ever cut your nose hairs?"

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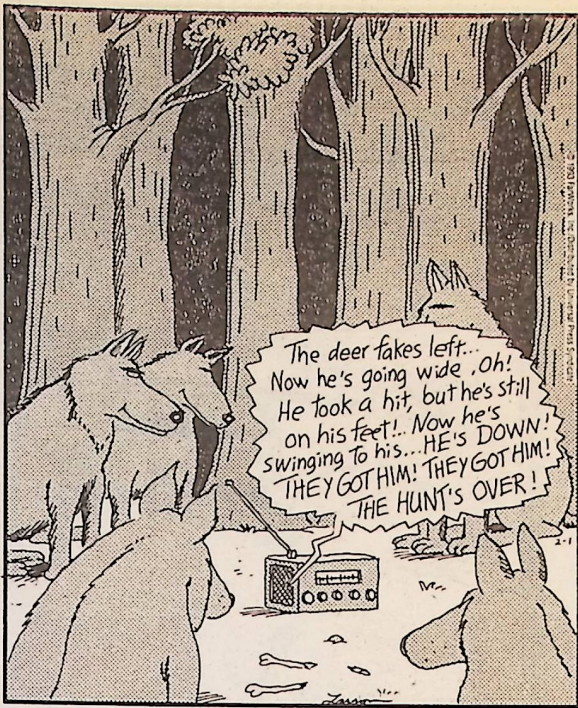
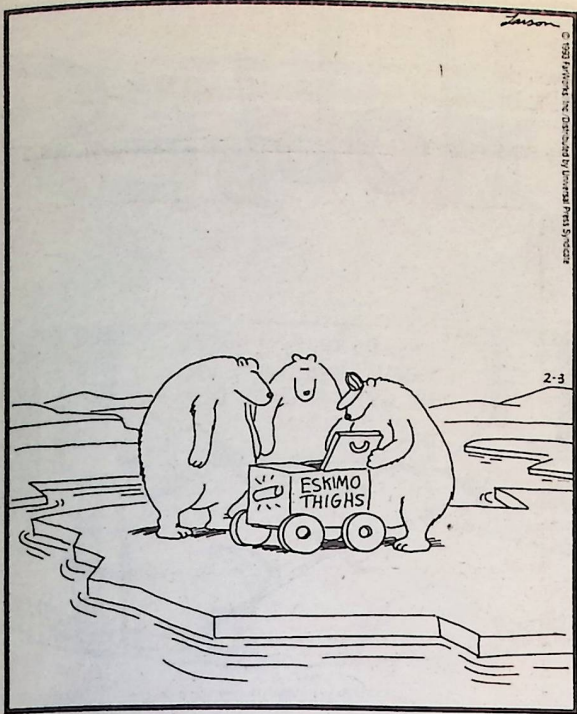


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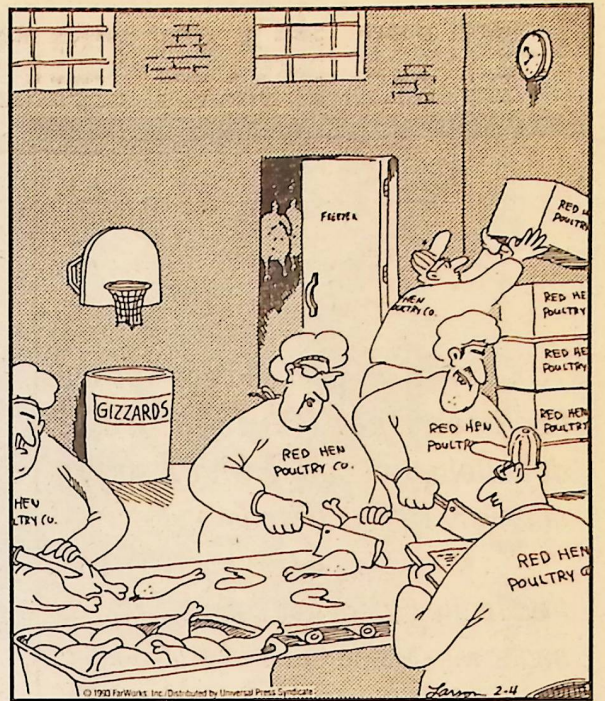
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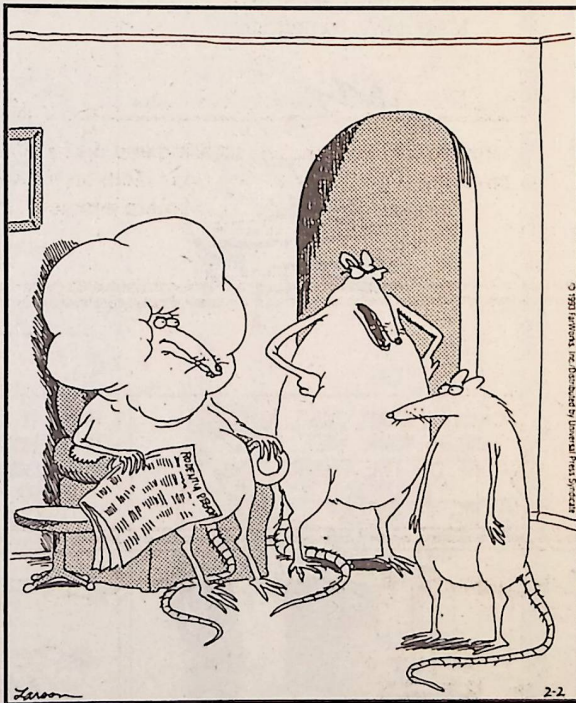
256-0771



Monday night in the woods



"Don't touch it, honey ... it's just a face in the crowd."



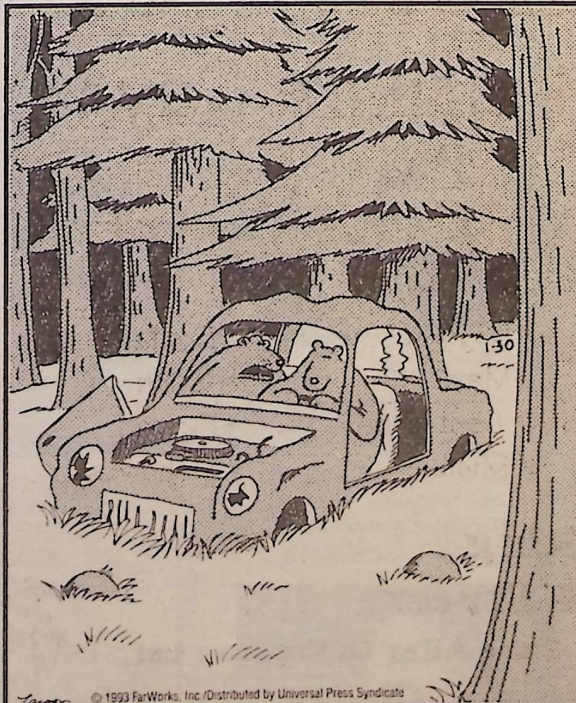
"Quit school? *Quit school?* You wanna end up like your father? A career lab rat?"



"No, really, Mom — who do you like best?"



Be a virus, see the world.



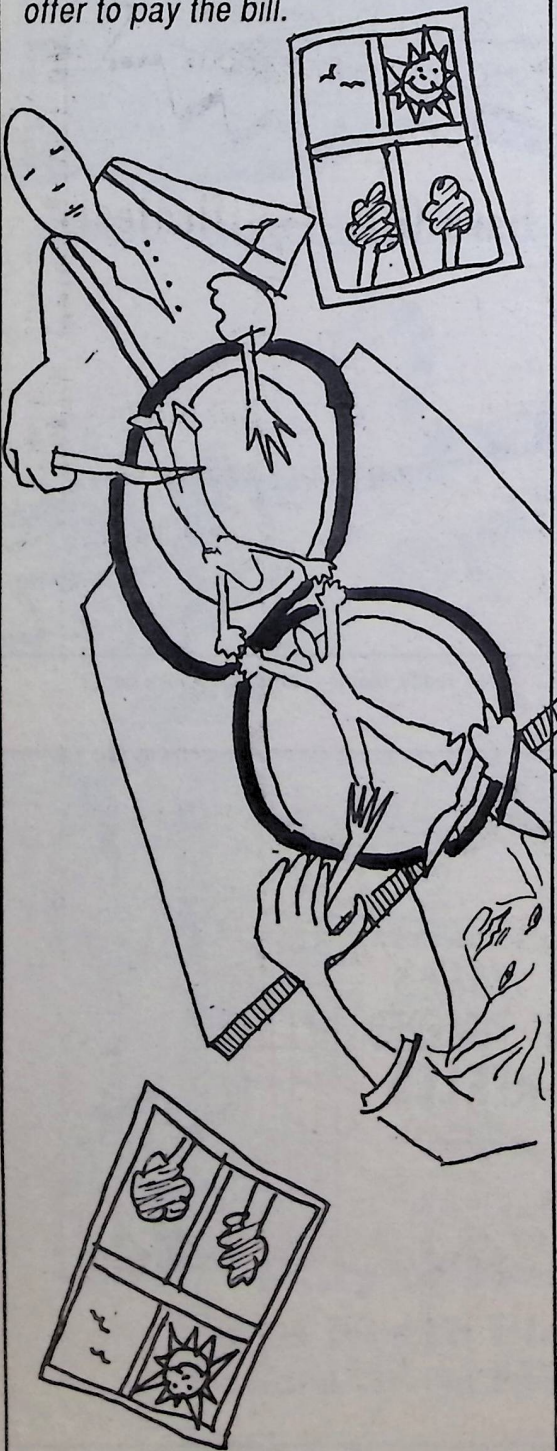
"Think about it, Murray. ... If we could get this baby runnin', we could run over hikers, pick up females, chase down mule deer — man, we'd be the grizzlies from hell."



When my girlfriend and I go out for breakfast I always order decaffeinated coffee with 2 sugars and very light with cream.

My quiet shy girlfriend frequently orders her coffee black, no sugar with a side order of a little male doll with a long hat pin through its stomach.

When she does that I always offer to pay the bill.

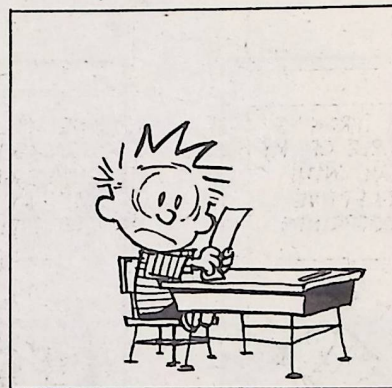
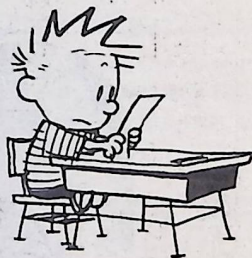


calvin and Hobbes

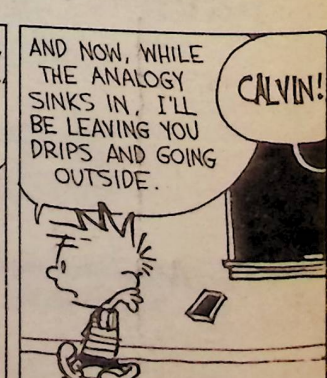
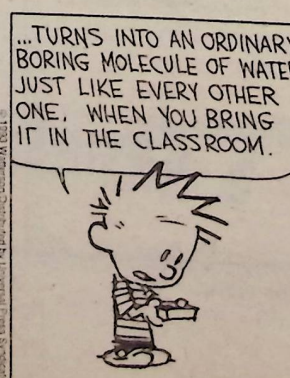
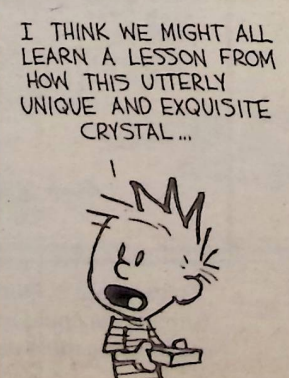
by BILL WATTERSON



1. Write a paragraph explaining the significance of Magellan's expedition.



A GAS MASK, A SMOKE GRENADE, AND A HELICOPTER THAT'S ALL I ASK.





OH LOVELY SNOWBALL,
PACKED WITH CARE,
SMACK A HEAD THAT'S
UNAWARE!



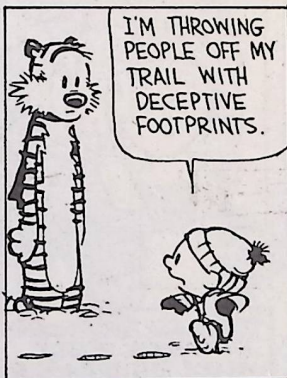
THEN WITH FREEZING
ICE TO SPARE,
MELT AND SOAK THROUGH
UNDERWEAR!



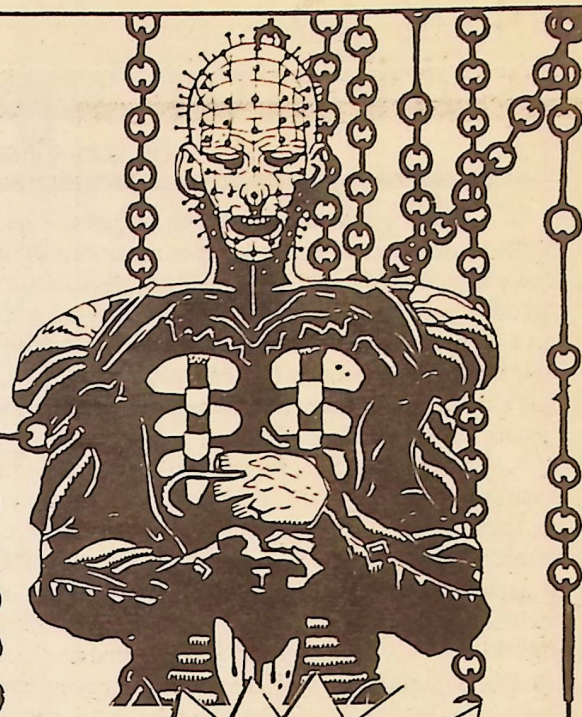
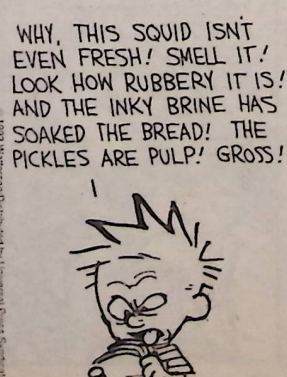
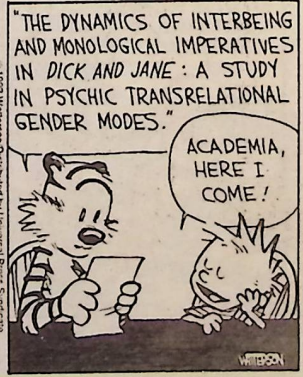
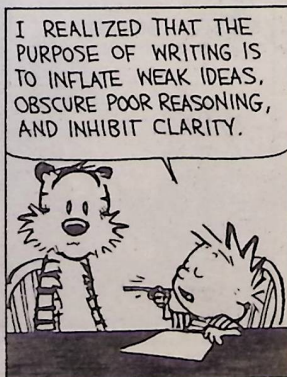
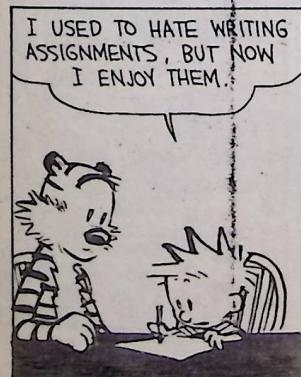
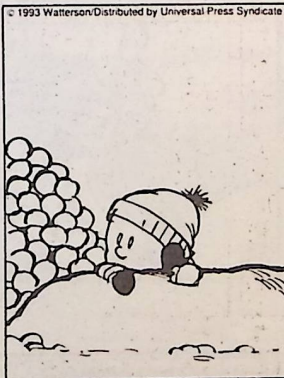
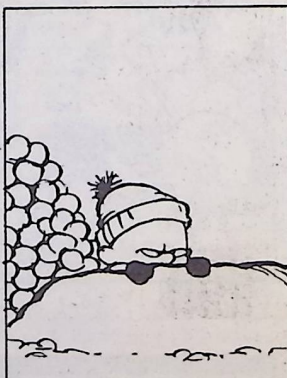
FLY STRAIGHT AND TRUE,
HIT HARD AND SQUARE!
THIS, OH SNOWBALL,
IS MY PRAYER.



I ONLY THROW
CONSECRATED
SNOWBALLS.



SEE, EVERYONE WILL
THINK THESE TRACKS WERE
MADE BY A ONE-LEGGED
KID GOING *THAT* WAY, AND
THEY'LL BE COMPLETELY
WRONG!



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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

I know you've tried to get into the fitness habit. First, you enrolled in dance aerobics, step aerobics, aquarobics and karatobics. Then you were jazzercised, boxercised and yogacised. You always start out psyched but soon realize there's just no fun in it. If only there was a fitness method that was amusing; one guaranteed to bring a smile to your face, no matter how hard you worked. Well, now there is. It's called Lafferobics, and these laughter gyms will soon be opening throughout the country.

The idea for pumping up through laughter was sparked by research conducted by Dr. William Fry of the University of California, Santa Barbara. His study on the correlation between laughter and energy output in the body concluded that laughing 200 times has the same physical exercise benefit as ten minutes on the rowing machine, because laughter engages muscles and body parts we don't often think about: lungs, heart, diaphragm, and rib cage to name a few. During a guffaw, everything internal is moving up and down. That's why laughing for a long time hurts the stomach, which becomes as sore as legs do when you run for a long while. Indeed, one guru of this fitness movement, Norman Cousins, described laughter as an "inner workout."

As with other physical workouts, it is imperative to warm up first. Lafferobic injuries are not funny. Explaining to your co-workers why you have an Ace bandage on your face is even less funny. Before beginning your laugh workout, start with a slow stretch of the facial, or zygomaticus, muscles. A ten minute session should do. Carefully expand from a smile to a smirk to a snicker to a chortle to a chuckle. Save the belly laughs, knee slappers and howls for when you are warmed up.

Proper footwear is essential for a productive session. Choose a specialty shoe for an exact type of laugh. These shoes are specifically designed to cushion and support various parts of the foot. It makes no sense to wear a shoe constructed for punning, which allows you to stand your ground amidst heaps of groans, if most of your exercise comes from sarcasm. For that talent you need to be light on your feet. For all-around Lafferobic footwear, I recommend the new cross-trainers. With these "Air Hennys" you can safely engage in jokes, cartoons, and quips as well as physical shtick and satire.

Some people only want to pump up one aspect of their sense of humor so they begin to concentrate on that area, and only that area, of laughter. The result is a highly defined world view that is criticized by "average" laughers as "freakish" or "unhealthy." Proponents of muscle humor claim that since it is their life and outlook, they will do what they want. Everyone agrees, though, that tickling as an artificial way to increase laughter and thereby increase humor muscles has no place in the sport. Tickling has recently been banned by the NFL (National Federation of Lafferobics).

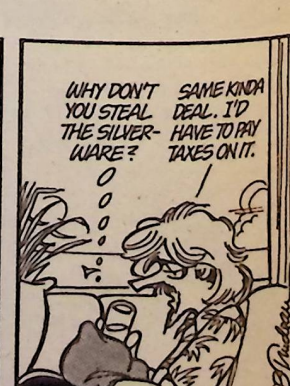
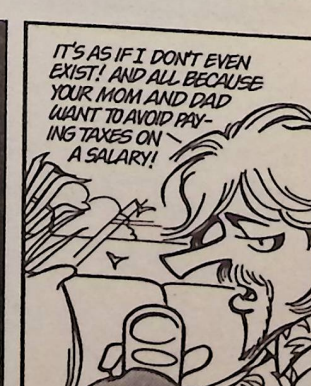
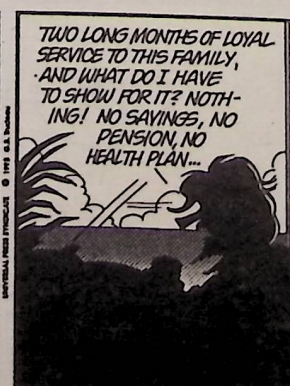
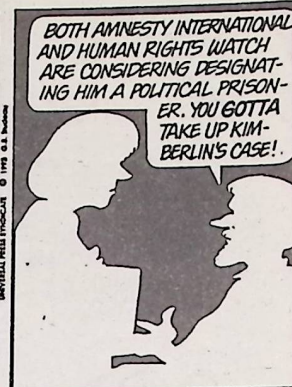
Lafferobics is trying, like much of society, to deal with gender discrimination. For too long, women have not been given the same latitude as men in choosing their outlet for laughter. For example, women who became adept at put-down humor were criticized for being "unfeminine." The critics, male and female, claimed put-down humor doesn't look very womanly. Fortunately, this attitude is changing; the trend now is for women to use put-down humor in a way that allows them to maintain femininity while developing put-down muscles.

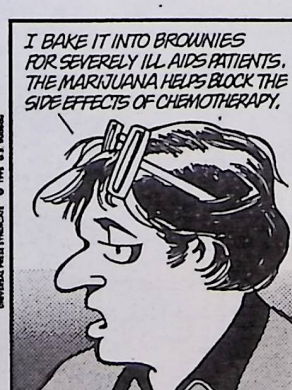
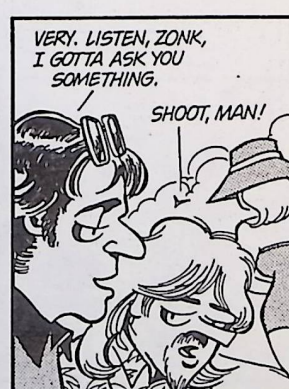
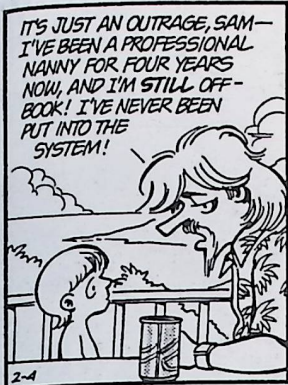
The nice thing about Lafferobics is its accessibility to all. We have classes for the humor-impaired, defined as those folks who can't or won't find anything to smile at. Treatment for the HI comes, fittingly enough, from Germany. Researchers there tried to find a way for Teutonic sourpusses, the sourest pussers in the universe, to smile. Although nothing is funny to them, the Germans and their bodies are used to doing whatever they're told. The scientists had their churlish subjects hold a pencil in their teeth. With the corners of their mouths lifted, their bodies assumed something pleasant was happening and were tricked into a smile.

I hope this information helps ease your fears about Lafferobics. Just don't think about it. After all, Moe knows laughter.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





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